

## Israeli troops invade Lebanon after raid on kibbutz

Armoured Israeli troops moved across the Lebanese border at dawn and began digging them into the strongly defended Palestinian territory. Accompanying the force were 250 tanks and armoured personnel carriers. The incursion, covering several miles, is thought to be the first phase of retaliation against Palestinian terrorists who attacked a kibbutz on Monday.

### Armoured force of 250 digs in

Walker... military strength... have widespread repercussions... a 250 heavily armed Israeli force... dig several miles into the Lebanese border... incursion began 48 hours after the... a children's... isolated border... Galilee... the first step in... retaliation... and was... reports of... aircraft flying... Lebanese port... with armoured... tanks and... Israeli troops... to be taking... between two... the buffer zone... the Christian... which have... Israeli backing... self positions... are controlled... by the... of the... peace-keeping... authorities... to acknowledge... until about 10... was launched... and by... the world... spokesman... the purpose of... patrol the area... further... its... ons officials... on... the... seven tanks... 0 other vehicles... of armoured... ers. The troops... said to have... right-wing Israeli... against the... at they intend... me," one official... circles, there was... at the Israeli... have been pro... a permanent... inside the... "free Lebanon"

## Most of BL workers accept new package

By Clifford Webb  
Nearly 80,000 BL car workers, 97 per cent of the manual labour force, rejected strike action yesterday and reported for work as usual. At three plants they had to brave the catcalls and jeers of pickets led by Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards.

The massive turnout in spite of a weekend of intense activity by stewards opposed to BL's decision to implement its controversial pay and working conditions package is seen as a vote of confidence for Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL.

Most of those on strike are members of the transport union. They will be receiving a 5 per cent wage increase compared with 10 per cent for skilled workers. The extra 5 per cent is regarded by the management as an overdue attempt to restore wage differentials for craftsmen who have been leaving BL in large numbers.

It has intensified the already bitter rivalry between the transport union, which represents mainly unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which has a much higher proportion of skilled members. All 23,000 engineering union members at BL obeyed their national executive's instruction and reported for work.



Army dog's farewell: Rats, the Army dog who has survived several terrorist attacks, on farewell parade at Pirbright, Surrey, yesterday, when he retired at eight years old from service with the Prince of Wales Company, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. In Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland, he never left the patrols when they came under fire. He was once shot at and twice wounded by car bombs, besides receiving head and leg injuries when struck by cars. He still has four pieces of car metal in his body. Last December he was awarded a gold medal by an animal charity. Yesterday he was flown to a country home in Kent, where he will spend his retirement.

## IRA kill PC and injure 3 in machine gun attack

From Christopher Thomas Belfast  
The Provisional IRA killed a police officer and injured three others when they fired 100 rounds from an armoured machine gun into the open rear doors of a Land-Rover in West Belfast yesterday.

The dead man was Constable Stephen Magill, aged 24, who had been married for eight months. He joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1978. Another officer was seriously injured and one was shot in the leg. A woman constable sustained a bullet wound in one hand.

## US asks allied envoys for support in putting pressure on Iran

From Patrick Brogan Washington, April 9  
A group of ambassadors from friendly and allied countries has been summoned to the State Department this afternoon to meet Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, who will ask them for their countries' cooperation and support in dealing with Iran. The State Department would not identify just what the Americans are asking.

A spokesman said that there was no list of actions the United States wanted its allies to take. It is clear, however, that they are again being asked to exert as much pressure on Iran as possible in an attempt to obtain the release of the hostages.

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Shah leaves hospital 6  
Leading article 15  
Dollar slides again 19

Iranian diplomats here have left. One was admitted to hospital yesterday complaining of pains in his chest. The State Department refused to say today whether he had applied for political asylum.

The staff of the Iranian consulate in San Francisco said they were praying, watched by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, before catching an aircraft for London. The diplomats in Washington spent yesterday packing and making arrangements for the disposal of their property here, and left in a convoy for the airport at about 7 pm.

They were seen off on a flight to London by a large crowd of resident Iranians, some carrying pictures of the Ayatollah Khomeini and carrying placards denouncing President Carter. The diplomats and their families were much more subdued.

About 500 Iranians are receiving military training in various installations in the United States. They were allowed to continue taking their courses (though the pilots were grounded) after the hostages were seized, on the grounds that American long-term interests would be best served by maintaining good relations with the Iranian armed forces.

They have been ordered to leave by Friday. It is not clear how many Iranians will then remain. There are thought to be about 50,000 students and their status is being examined.

EEC meeting: The EEC allies moved quickly to consult on the new demands made on their friendship with the United States as foreign ministers of the Nine prepared for a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Lisbon today (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Informal consultations were beginning last night and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was already in the Portuguese capital for the meeting. Among EEC member-states, West Germany indicated that it would join in sanctions, the French response was still awaited. The Italians were only willing to take action jointly with the other members.

Brussels: A survey of the EEC's trade relations with Iran and the implications for member-states of any action that might be taken to support the American trade sanctions is being undertaken by the European Commission (Michael Horsby writes).

In a message yesterday to Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the Commission, the Americans asked both for parallel EEC trade sanctions and for a reduction in the level of the Community's diplomatic representation in Tehran.

EEC officials emphasized that any decision on how to respond to the American request would have to be a matter for member-governments. The Commission's role was seen as essentially one of providing the economic and commercial data that member states would need to consider before making up their minds.

Reactions: The West Germans made it clear today that they are prepared to apply sanctions against Iran jointly with European Community members and other friendly countries (Patrick Clough writes).

Continued on page 6, col 4

## woman defects to East Germany

19.—A Belgian woman who worked in the headquarters of the East German news agency in East Germany... a Nato spokesman... identified her... to work... Easter holiday... whether... was believed to... secrets with... said she did... to executive... at Miss Werre... several hundred... and had asked... on grounds of... the... policy... included Nato's... in December to

## May 14 threat to all public transport

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor  
Public transport is likely to be at a complete standstill on May 14, the TUC "day of action" against Government policies, as a result of a decision by busmen's leaders to take part in the protest.

Lay delegates on the Transport and General Workers' Union national bus committee, representing about 140,000 busmen, voted unanimously yesterday to join railway workers in a 24-hour stoppage that will disrupt many other industries, as employees will be unable to get to their place of work.

The TUC economic committee also met yesterday to review the response to the labour movement's call for widespread industrial action in protest at the Cabinet's economic and labour law policies. It decided to produce a popular version of the TUC annual economic review, outlining the "alternative strategy" it is urging on ministers.

Trade union decisions already taken mean there will be no trains or daily newspapers. Many unions have yet to take decisions on the day of action, but, judging from the response so far in industry, commerce and public services will be seriously affected by what the TUC still insists is not a one-day general strike.

## Forest triumph but Arsenal are held

Nottingham Forest beat Ajax of Amsterdam 2-0 in the first leg of their European Cup, semi-final round match at the City Ground. In the Cup Winners' Cup Arsenal could only draw 1-1 at home to Juventus in a game packed with incident. Tardelli of Juventus was sent off.

Police "not trusted": Police conducted for Granada Television showed distrust of police among people in parts of Merseyside, Manchester and in Britain.

Computers set alight  
The premises in Toulouse of a second computer firm, the CIL-Honeywell-Bull company, have been ravaged by a fire set by terrorists. Responsibility was claimed by the same group that said it had raided the Philips Data Systems company in Toulouse four days earlier. Experts said the "loss is incalculable". The archives were ransacked and data programmes destroyed.

Whistler delay: Glasgow University is delaying until July a decision on selling its 11 Whistler pictures.

## Death threat repeated on US hostages

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, April 9  
The students who have taken over the United States Embassy in Tehran have repeated an earlier threat to kill all their hostages if President Carter tried to use any military force against Iran.

Responsibility for the deaths, they said, would be "directly upon the criminal United States ruling body".

Leading Iranian clergymen have also kept alive the threat to put some of the hostages on trial.

However Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Foreign Minister, today held out the possibility that relatives would be allowed to visit the estimated 49 hostages.

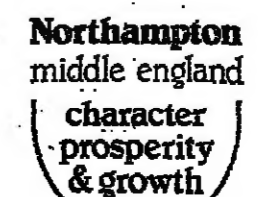
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0604 34734

## in Cabinet ver ral reform

accepted the resignation of Government after Mr... the Prime Minister, he had failed to resolve within his coalition over... m. The King will meet to explore the possibility of different coalition, elections which might underlying tension between speaking and French... nities

ice sharp  
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to rise sharply over the... the surge in whole... March makes itself... Factory gate prices... to wholesalers in March... per cent and this... pressure during... nths

## Labour conference to take place

Labour's special party conference initiated by the left wing is to take place. Opposition from "moderates" was absent at a meeting of the national executive committee. Even Mr James Callaghan, reported to be among those with strong reservations, voted for a resolution giving the conference the committee's blessing.

## Rail pay hopes rise

Both sides in British Rail pay talks appeared hopeful of reaching a settlement after the three rail unions had agreed to consider efficiency measures as part of any deal. The agreement represented a marked change in union opinion.

Rusty Lancias deal  
Lancia, the Italian motor manufacturer, has bought back from owners about 500 cars for scrapping because their engines mountings had rusted badly. Owners have been offered trade-in value and compensation. The company says that a new corrosion prevention warranty has been introduced.

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Leader page 15  
Letters: On Soviet expansion, from Professor Louis Halle; on the Bristol riot, from Mr Arthur Palmer, MP; and others.  
Leading article: The allies' response; Guardians of the curriculum; Belgium's language barrier.  
Features, pages 13, 14  
Baroness Wootton on wage claims and collective bargaining; Bernard Levin on the happy followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh; Shona Crawford Poole on Italian cooking.

Arts, page 9  
Glenys Roberts interviews the director Nicolas Roeg, whose film *Bad Timing* opens in London today; Irving Wardle on *The Three Sisters* at the Warehouse.  
Obituary, page 17  
Mr J. L. Reading, Miss Cecil Leslie, Mr J. L. Reading.  
Sport, pages 10, 11  
Cricket: Wood's move to Derbyshire; Wood's move to Derbyshire; Wood's move to Derbyshire.  
Football: England under-21 team to play East Germany; Racing: Uncle Bing a convincing winner at Cheltenham.  
Business News, page 18-23  
Stock markets: Equities started to move upwards as the gilt edged market improved and set a firmer tone; the FT Index closed 4.6 up at 431.3.  
Financial Editor: BP, GRE, Croda, THF and GIL and Duffus.

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## HOME NEWS

# Rail unions agree to consider efficiency as part of package

By Donald MacIntyre  
Labour Reporter

A settlement for 186,000 British Rail (BR) workers appeared more likely after the three-railway unions formally agreed yesterday to consider efficiency measures as part of any deal.

The negotiations, which will resume next Thursday, will concentrate on trying to bridge a gap between a board offer of 13 per cent plus 4 per cent for productivity, and a joint union demand for 17.5 per cent plus 2.5 per cent in return for moves to improve efficiency.

The agreement to include BR efficiency proposals in the pay talks represents a marked shift in union opinion, particularly that of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF).

British Rail, which must contain its cost increases over the coming financial year within £750m, is pressing the unions for agreement to an initial group of medium-term productivity measures.

They include the reduction of spare marshalling yard capacity while the Speedlink fast freight service is developed, a reduction in the number of parcels depots to match traffic levels, and changes in administration.

# Therapists strike for better offer

By Annabel Farriman  
Health Services Correspondent

Hospital paramedical staff, who are staging a one-day strike today, are hoping for an improved pay offer from the management side of the Whitley Council when it meets this afternoon.

Representatives of the 37,500 radiographers, physiotherapists and speech therapists in the health service were asked on Tuesday to attend a reconvened meeting of the council and have been granted a meeting tomorrow with Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health.

They are angry over the recommendation of the Clegg comparability commission that they should work a 37½-hour week. Radiographers work 35 hours a week, physiotherapists 36 hours and speech therapists 33 hours. They would receive the 15 per cent increase recommended by the commission only if they worked the longer hours.

The Society of Radiographers, which represents 9,000 of the 10,000 radiographers in the health service, and the National and Local Government Officers' Association, which has 20,000 paramedical staff members, are both calling out their members today and again on April 18, except for emergency cover. Nalga has also authorized general non-cooperation in areas of non-clinical duties and an overtime ban to begin immediately.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy has decided not to call out its members today because of the invitation to attend the reconvened meeting of the Whitley Council and the meeting with Dr Vaughan. If nothing comes of them, it intends to call a strike on April 18.

Waiting lists fall: The number of people on hospital waiting lists had fallen by 50,000, Dr Vaughan said yesterday (the Press Association reports). It was the first time for more than five years that there had been such a large fall, he added.

The latest figures, which were for last September, showed that the number awaiting admission to health service hospitals in England had fallen to about 700,000.

# Inquiry committees' impact on British policy-making questioned

## Test of royal commissions' effectiveness

By Peter Hennessy

The Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA) is to undertake the first examination for 70 years of the effectiveness of royal commissions and departmental committees of inquiry.

Mr William Plowden, Director-General of the RIPA, said yesterday, "Such bodies reflect the typically haphazard, haphazard approach to policy in this country. Someone ought to ask questions about them. They are simply repeated time and time again without anybody looking back and saying: 'Did the last one make a contribution?'"

It is 71 years since Mr Herbert Gladstone, Liberal Home Secretary, appointed a Departmental Committee on the Procedure of Royal Commissions under the chairmanship of Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

The committee, which reported in 1910, concluded that we are unanimous in believing that the appointment of royal commissions is useful for the elucidation of difficult subjects which are attracting public attention, but in regard to which the information is not sufficiently accurate to form a preliminary to legislation.

Between the general elections of 1964 and 1979 successive prime ministers appointed 19 royal commissions. Mr Plowden believes that today such bodies have a limited impact on policy-making and are part of the



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spring 1980 edition of RIPA Report, is keen to hear from those with direct experience of royal commissions and committees of inquiry.

His first step will be to call a meeting of interested people to discuss the scope of the inquiry, which should be under way by the summer.

In conversation yesterday he described five different types of committee or commission established in recent years:

1. Those whose purpose was to secure information, like the Fulton Committee on the Civil Service, "where the evidence is better than the report."

2. Those whose foundation was a substitute for taking action.

3. Those which served to legitimise legislation, the "legislative" type.

4. Those intended to propagate a particular point of view held by the government of the day, like the Bullock Committee on industrial democracy.

5. Those which examined subjects of recurring interest like the press and broadcasting.

Mr Plowden suggested that the Royal Commission on Legal Services, about whose report there had been considerable discussion might be used as a case study.

RIPA Report, Spring 1980, Vol 1, No 1, 3 Birkbeck Walk, London, SW19 9JJ.

# Lord Kagan may be considering surrender

By Arthur Gorman

Lord Kagan yesterday discussed with Major-General Karsenty, a French lawyer, the possibility of surrendering voluntarily to England to face trial and fraud charges.

It was believed in Paris where Lord Kagan has been held on remand in the Prison since his arrest on May 1, that he had decided to surrender to British authorities rather than face extradition proceedings. If so he could have home within a few days.

The first stage of the extradition application is expected to be made tomorrow, when city justices will be asked to authorise documents, including the warrant issued by their last November for Lord Kagan's arrest. The extradition hearing will begin in Paris next Wednesday.

Last night the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: "The embassy in Paris has asked the French authorities to allow a consular official to see Lord Kagan in prison. The purpose of the visit would be to ensure that he is happy to accept legal representation, and so on."

An official of the department of the Director of Public Prosecutions said earlier yesterday that after Leeds the next stage would be the passing of extradition documents by way of the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Quai d'Orsay, which in turn would send them to the French judicial authorities for consideration. That would probably be next week.

He said no date was yet known for the full extradition hearing in Paris, at which the DPP would probably be represented by French lawyers.

"Assuming the French authorities were satisfied with the documents and an extradition order was made, there would be an appeal process open to the person involved in order to secure a quantity so far as time concerned."

"This case is prosecuted by the Customs and Excise and assuming Kagan was extradited, then how could it be a case of extradition? It would be a case of extradition, although all English are addressed to the 'stables'. So it would be the police."

An official of Customs and Excise in London said that Lord Kagan's extradition order was issued in November and was another, also issued in December, 1978, a currency offences. The nothing that could be said about this stage about any case involving extradition, up to Lord Kagan's arrival in Tuesday.

Theodore Goddard and solicitors, of St Martin's Grand, London, who instruct counsel for the defence of Lord Kagan, said yesterday: "We do not represent Lord Kagan."

Lady Kagan is on bail, having been committed for trial at Leeds Crown Court with the other defendants and two co-accused, charged with falsifying accounts, defrauding the Inland Revenue and unlawfully exporting denim cloth.

Yesterday Lady Kagan, 55, was working at the textile plant in West Yorkshire which she founded with her husband's business success.

**New virus death**  
A patient aged 76 died of influenza virus at St Luke's Leicester recently.

# Print firms meet on pay

By Our Labour Staff

General printing and provincial newspaper employers are meeting today against the background of a threat of increased industrial action by members of the National Graphical Association in pursuit of their claim for an £80 a week minimum wage and a 37½ hour week within the next year.

The NGA said yesterday that since the dispute began a fortnight ago firms employing about a fifth of the 60,000 workers directly or indirectly affected by the negotiations had reached interim settlements. Those firms had, therefore, been exempted from any industrial action.

The tactic of holding disruptive mandatory meetings in

provincial newspapers may be increased, and according to the NGA about 1,000 workers in general printing firms have stopped work indefinitely and are "occupying factories".

The NGA say that the interim settlements affected firms in the British Printing Industries Federation and those non-federated ones which normally follow agreements reached by the federation.

The federation said it had evidence of only 60 of 3,700 member companies having settled.

The federation and the Newspaper Society, representing provincial newspaper employers, negotiated jointly with the NGA. Both groups have offered a £75 minimum and a 37½-hour week by 1982.

# Labour's special conference is on

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Labour's special party conference, initiated by the left wing, is to take place in spite of murmurs from some radical union leaders and "moderate" politicians about its advisability.

That was decided yesterday at a meeting of the national executive committee, where the left turned up in force to man their barricades but not a shot was fired in anger.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, who is believed to be among those who held strong reservations, voted with the rest for a resolution which, in effect, gave a blessing to the conference.

The support for any counter-offensive, if it had been planned, was not on the ground. Hardly any trade union representatives put in an appearance. Only Mr John Gillingham, a radical trade unionist, spoke in support of the conference. But the alternative was only touched on.

The statement will contain policies already agreed by the party, which could provide a useful, when it goes before a drafting committee, which will include Mr Callaghan, Mr Foot, Mr Eric Heffer and Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Norman Ashton, party treasurer.

Party policy no longer refers to selective import controls but, in line with a conference decision in 1978, "planned import controls" as part of the alternative economic strategy to replace the economy.

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# Lancia deal to scrap

By Edward Townsend

Lancia, the Italian car manufacturer, said last night that a new corrosion prevention warranty, which could provide a useful, when it goes before a drafting committee, which will include Mr Callaghan, Mr Foot, Mr Eric Heffer and Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Norman Ashton, party treasurer.

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Lancia is using a system offered by Cadulac Chemicals and the treatment is in addition to the normal factory-added protection.

A United Kingdom spokesman for Lancia said the company had been aware of the rusting for two years and could not deny that the new warranty aimed to counter that. Such offers, however, are common in the motor industry.

The decision to scrap the Lancia's, most of them six or seven-year old models, was taken at the company's headquarters in Turin after it had been found that engine mountings were rusting. Although this was not a safety hazard, if the mountings failed the cars became unroadworthy.

Owners of cars with rusted mountings are being offered the trade-in value plus some compensation.

Lancia claims that most are accepting the deal and buying new or younger second-hand Lancia's. The average value of the deal is about £1,000.

The Department of Transport has asked Lancia for full details of the defect.

# Tougher law on drink, driving urged

By Frances Gibb

The police should have the power to stop motorists to test their alcohol level without having to show there was reasonable cause to suspect a drink or traffic offence, the Justices' Clerks' Society has proposed.

It also says that a complete ban on driving after drinking any quantity of alcohol at all should be considered if new laws fail to reduce the deaths and serious injuries caused by drinking and driving.

The proposals are contained in a pamphlet which the 350-member society has published in response to the Department of Transport's consultative document on drinking and driving issued last December.

Present restrictions on police powers to test motorists at the roadside should be lifted, the society urges. On the arrest itself, it says that an arrest is not a necessary preliminary to conviction, nor should arrest on the wrong grounds invalidate proceedings. The society adds that the present limit of alcohol should remain unchanged.

The society views "with profound disquiet" the increase in the number of offenders failing to stop and report an accident. Drivers should be exposed to much heavier fines and mandatory disqualification, especially where personal injury is involved.

The society should also have the power to impound the car of a driver brought to a station for testing whether or not he is over the limit.

The whole law on drinking and driving needs radical reappraisal, it says. The present law gives scope for artificial defences and for advantage to be taken of technical excuses for evading responsibility, which brings it into disrepute.

"Oppressive" law: Shorter prison sentences, a review of the oppressive, unnecessary and wasteful law on young offenders and the abolition of suspended sentences are proposed in a review of sentences also published by the Justices' Clerks' Society yesterday.

The society is concerned, it says, with the "appalling conditions" of prisons and the "intolerable conditions" in which prison staff are required to work.

Prison and detention centre sentences should be cut to the minimum length of time necessary and used only for those for whom no other sentence is appropriate, it recommends.

The society also urges a review of the law on the treatment of offenders, which is more in chaos than anywhere else in the penal system, it says.

"We suspect that many who are directing policies have forgotten how a young person thinks and what latitude he expects society to allow him."

Apart from certain exceptional cases, probation is a waste of resources for the first offender, it says.

The society urges that suspended sentences be reviewed, and argues that there is a strong case for their abandonment.

Observations on the Department of Transport's Consultative Document on Drinking and Driving and Sentencing in the 1980s (Justices' Clerks' Society, No. Sec. St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, CV1-5RE).

# MP to hold poll on missile sites

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, who said last week that a referendum on the possible siting of cruise missiles in East Anglia would be unconstitutional, is to hold his own poll tonight in the Suffolk village of Brandon.

Local campaigners against the possible missile site will boycott his meeting but will hold their own meeting two hours later.

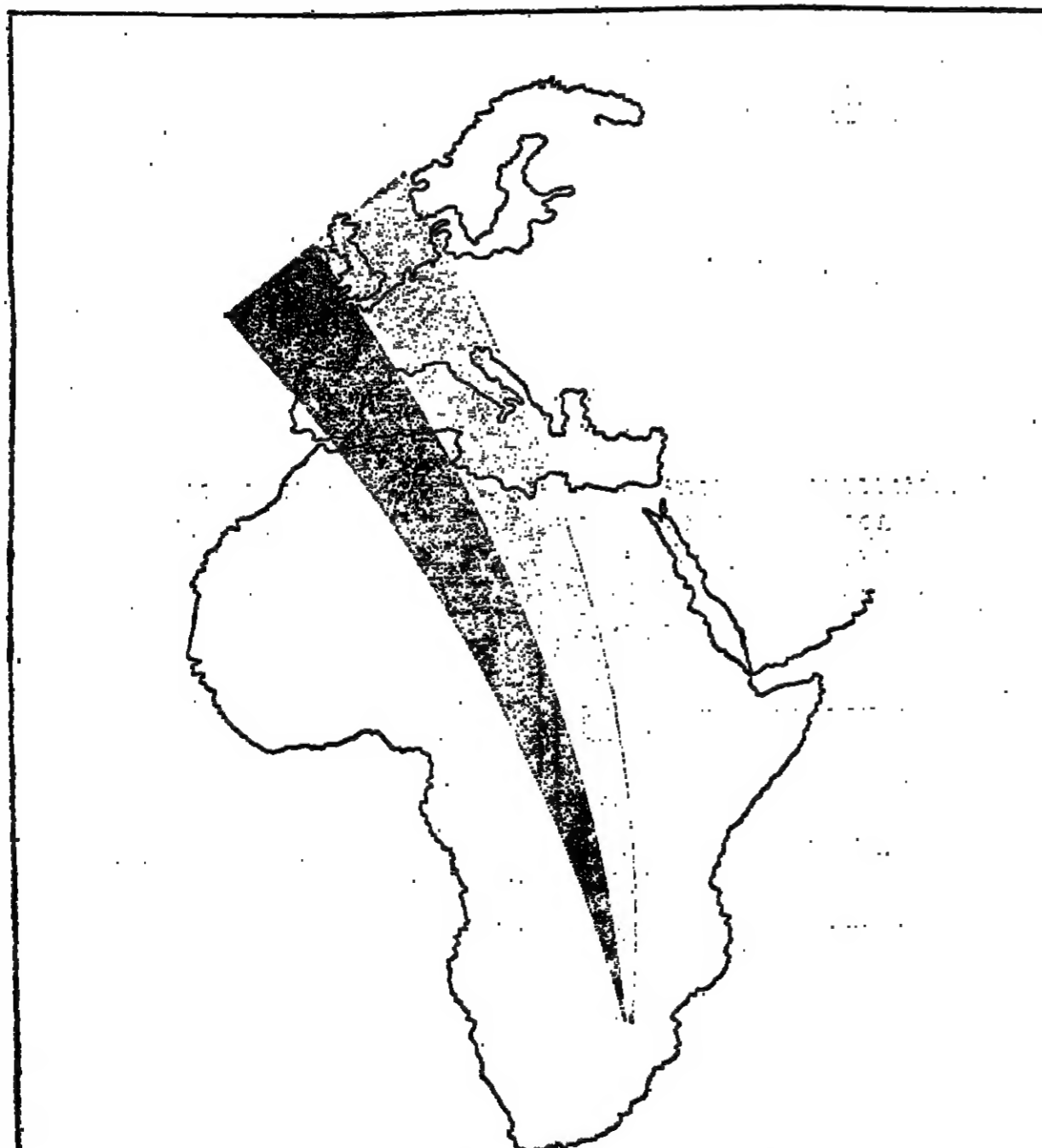
"We shall leave it to the people of Brandon," a member of the Bury St Edmunds group against the missiles said.

Those attending Mr Griffiths's meeting will be asked in a secret ballot, whether they agree with the evidence that Britain's defence forces need increasing, and whether they wish that defence issues should continue to be decided by the Government.

Today was set for the referendum, which was called off last week by Forest Heath District Council.

Brandon is near the United States Air Force base of Lakenheath.

Mr Griffiths maintains that parish polls cannot cover matters of national importance.



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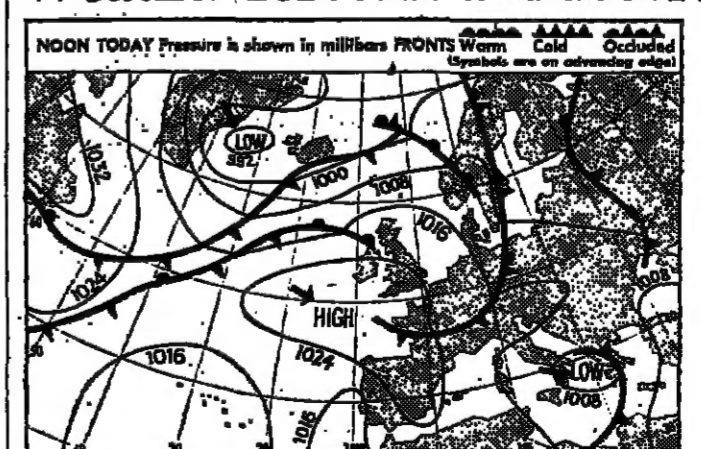
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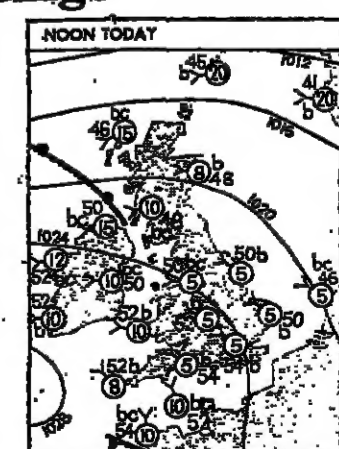


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# Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Sum rises:	Sun sets:	Moon rises:	Moon sets:
New Moon: April 15.	6.15 am	7.49 pm	4.4 am	1.41 pm
Lighting up: 8.19 pm to 5.44 am.				
High water: London Bridge, 9.42 am, 5.9m; 10.12 pm, 5.8m; Avebury, 22.7 am, 10.1m; 1.26 pm, 10.2m; Dover, 7.8 am, 5.3m; 7.50 pm, 5.5m; Hull, 2.3 am, 5.6m; 2.26 pm, 5.8m; Liverpool, 7.21 am, 7.6m; 3.8 pm, 7.6m; 11.0-0.3048m, 1m=3.2808ft				



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Overseas selling prices	Sum rises:	Sun sets:	Moon rises:	Moon sets:
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These days, car salesmen offer you the options list the way waiters offer you the à la Carte.

Leaving you to choose the fixtures and fittings according to your pocket.

A state of affairs which we find lamentable.

Hence, the appointments, generally found on the options lists of other cars, are already present in the Royale. For example, automatic transmission is standard. (You can have manual, if you prefer, at no additional cost.)

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## HOME NEWS

## Fluid in lungs 'most important factor' in causing Kelly death

From David Nicholson-Lord Liverpool

Dr Michael Pearson, a Liverpool hospital doctor, said yesterday at the inquest on Mr James Kelly, aged 53, who died in police custody, that "probably the most important factor" in the cause of death was an accumulation of fluid in the lungs.

Such an accumulation, he said, led to breathlessness and was one of the effects of heart disease. It meant that if he was kept prone on the ground he would experience extreme anxiety and fear and would struggle in every possible way to sit up.

He agreed with Mr Andrew Rankin, QC, for the Chief Constable of Merseyside, that a struggle caused by lung congestion could give police officers the idea that Mr Kelly was continuing to resist arrest.

Dr Pearson said that despite a serious heart condition Mr Kelly could have given a very good account of himself in a fight.

Dr Pearson, a cardiac and thoracic registrar at Broadgreen Hospital, who diagnosed angina in Mr Kelly, a former building labourer, five weeks before his death, said many drunken people admitted into hospital casualty departments suffered from heart disease, and yet could be extremely violent and extremely strong. Short bursts of activity would have been within Mr Kelly's reach.

Sergeant David Berrington, the third of four officers involved in Mr Kelly's arrest to give evidence, said Mr Kelly was struggling violently, kicking out and "throwing his arms about", as two officers held him on the ground.

Sergeant Berrington, aged 29, said he knelt on Mr Kelly's chest to try to catch hold of his arms. At one stage there were two officers putting pressure on Mr Kelly's chest.

The sergeant said he was punched in the face and kicked on the knee. He was signed off work for a week by the hospital casualty doctor. He had a broken tooth.

Sergeant Berrington said he

had received a government disbursement gratuity for the injuries he received on the night of the arrest, and after the inquest intended applying to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

He said he was totally surprised to learn of Mr Kelly's heart condition, in view of his behaviour. No unlawful or excessive violence was used on him, and no police officer had done anything he could criticize.

The hearing was also told that Mr Kelly was "not long away from" a blood-alcohol level considered to be lethal.

Dr David Paterson, a Home Office scientist, said the lethal level was believed to start at about 400mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. Mr Kelly's blood contained 331mg of alcohol, and his urine 465mg.

Dr Paterson said the minimum amount of alcohol needed to produce those measurements in a man of 15 stones, about Mr Kelly's weight, was 13 pints of beer or 26 single whiskies.

He agreed with Mr Rankin, QC, for the Chief Constable, that Mr Kelly had been referred to him by his family doctor because of breathlessness.

Dr Pearson diagnosed ischaemic heart disease, or angina, prescribed tablets, and advised Mr Kelly to stop smoking and drinking.

Mr Gray, QC, for the Kelly family, that for two officers to sit on Mr Kelly's chest as he was trying to get up was "dangerous and might well lead to death".

Dr Pearson—it is another factor in the equation, yes. But the excess fluid was probably the most important factor.

He agreed with Mr George Carman, QC, for the Police Federation and the four officers, that it would have been an act of folly for someone with Mr Kelly's heart condition to drink a minimum of 13 pints of beer. Coupled with struggle or exertion, it would add to his chances of death.

## Polls show low black confidence in police

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

A strong distrust of the police is shown in polls carried out for Granada Television among people in parts of Merseyside, Manchester and Brixton South London. But confidence is strong among a wider cross-section of people polled in the North-west.

Hostility towards the police was apparent in replies to questions put to 220 people of West Indian origin in Brixton on the Friday and Saturday after the Bristol riot.

Seventy per cent told European Market Research Surveys they thought people in the area had little or no confidence in the police. More than half said they thought that immigrants were discriminated against, and that young people were treated less favourably than other groups in society. It is likely that the violence in Bristol would be repeated.

The sense of grievance that many black people feel about use of the "sus" law (arrest for suspicious behaviour under the Vagrancy Act) showed in the poll. Thirty-eight per cent of those questioned in Brixton felt that the police were too harsh on suspicious behaviour.

More than three-quarters said they had heard allegations that police mistreated suspects in Brixton. Nearly everyone who had heard an allegation of that kind believed it was at least partly true.

Polls by Opinion Research Centre in mid-March, covered more than 2,000 adults in the North-west, with a more detailed look at Brixton and Waverley on Merseyside, and Moss Side and Blackley in Greater Manchester.

As in previous surveys, more than half of those polled in the region as a whole replied that they either had a great deal of confidence in the police or quite a lot.

Among young people in all four city areas, 63 per cent said they thought people had not much confidence. That compared with 36 per cent in the region.

Letters, page 15

## Pressure groups, 4: American-style tactics may be next step to regaining power Influence in decline while membership is increasing

By Ian Bradley

Most observers seem to agree that the heyday of pressure group power and influence is coming, if only temporarily, to an end. As Mr Frank Field, former director of the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) and now Labour MP for Birkenhead, said: "This Government heralds the end of old-style lobbying. It is much less open to pressure than any others in the last 30 years. Ministers are increasingly saying to pressure groups, 'Whom do you represent?'"

It is dangerous to generalise about the present Government's attitude to pressure groups. Mr Cech Conroy, campaign director of Friends of the Earth, says they have found it more responsive than the last government on some issues, like whaling, and less on others.

However, there is a general feeling that the Conservatives are less sympathetic to the involvement of pressure groups in policy-making than their Labour predecessors. Where individual ministers do show an interest in taking up a

cause, championed by a particular group, they are sometimes reined in by their backbenchers. A carefully concerted campaign by Tory MPs has recently forced the Government to abandon plans for a stronger anti-smoking policy called for by the pressure group ASH, and of which Mr George Younger, Minister of State at the Department of Health, was in favour.

Professor Peter Hall, of Reading University, has come to the conclusion that the present paralysis in the field of planning, which he blames on the influence of objecting groups, will be eased by the commitment of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to quick and effective decision-taking.

Paradoxically, while they may be losing some of their power and influence, pressure groups are, if anything, gaining in support and continuing to attract wide coverage in the media. They are also widening their appeal and taking in more working-class members alongside their traditional middle-class support.

Mr Field is pessimistic about the short-term future for pressure groups in Britain. "They have depended and thrived on the assistance of decent and concerned MPs," he says. "The trouble now is that the right-wing wind is blowing so hard that very few politicians are left to play the decency card."

"The stream is going underground and it will need to be brought to the surface again by political action."

He sees the future for pressure groups as lying with Labour. "But there is a world of difference between doing it with a clock on your back because you have decided it to be valuable."

Delegates should wake up to the threat to their professional standards. "Do not cede the right to make professional judgments on these matters. You can lose these rights only once, and they should be sold dearly."

Mr Terry Casey, the union's general secretary, said afterwards: "The local authorities must now see that conditions of service is a dead dog. Whatever possibility there was of any movement on that has gone."

"They have said that they are no longer willing to have voluntary duties on the uncertain basis of good will; we will not

than 20 years, is worried that the campaigning in favour of Mr John Corrie's Bill denotes a backlash against the liberalising pressure groups of the 1960s and early 1970s. "She said: 'I am sure we may see the emergence of anti-liberal, anti-reforming pressure groups, as is happening in America.'"

Another way pressure groups could combat a decline in influence and power would be to develop more sophisticated, American-style lobbying. There are signs of that happening. Organisations like the British Council, employing professional lobbyists.

Other pressure groups are turning to the services of parliamentary consultants and professional lobbying organisations. They are a growing feature of the British political scene. The most recent was formed only a few weeks ago by former political assistants to Mr James Callaghan, Mr Edward Heath and Mr David Steel.

If American styles of lobbying do catch on, politics could become more sectional, with interest groups demanding that

## Teachers' rebuff for councils over conditions

From Diana Geddes Educational Correspondent

The attempt by local authorities to "obtain agreement on teachers' conditions of service" received a further severe setback yesterday when the second part of teachers' professional freedom and result in the imposition of longer hours and less favourable conditions of service.

The employers have suggested a contract which would require a teacher to spend up to 24 hours a week teaching classes and up to 7 hours on "other professional duties", such as midday supervision and consultation with parents.

Mr Ronald Cocking, national treasurer of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, who proposed the motion at the union's annual conference in Epsom, said later that the decision could mean withdrawal from "voluntary" duties, such as the midday supervision of pupils and attendance at parents' meetings, disruption of public examinations and all-out strike action.

they already did more than the hours proposed for "other professional duties". Mr Cocking said: "But there is a world of difference between doing it with a clock on your back because you have decided it to be valuable."

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"They have said that they are no longer willing to have voluntary duties on the uncertain basis of good will; we will not

accept them on the basis of compulsion; so presumably that means they are not going to get any voluntary duties."

A riding by Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal last year had confirmed that a teacher's contractual duties consisted of just five hours a day, 190 days a year, Mr Casey said.

The union has refused from the outset to take part in the working party on conditions of service set up jointly a year ago by the local authorities and all the other teachers' unions.

On Monday the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, which represents about half the teachers in England and Wales, approved the continuation of discussions in that working party, but said that they should be kept separate from the forthcoming salary negotiations.

## 'Black' tactics criticized

From Richard G. The Times Education Supplement

Teachers who Carlisle, QC, Secretary, a bo were using tactics Mosley's bi Peter Kennedy, the National Union said yesterday.

Speaking at annual conference he said: "I did Mosley's blacks in various v reminded me of threatening by a Mr Kennedy as that 111 of the delegates had left protest during speech. It is a challenge by de challenge was a Mr Kennedy as see a situation particularly in of people stan casting for the most severe dou feudalism of general and m NUT in particular inapt and inapp time of inmine on our salaries.

It seemed to an indication of where the mine from and dic majority. I s majority of mer whom, like me opposed to the Carlisle, prepar him, probably Meanwhile Mr a warning that ti be prepared to form of strike actions over pay, next week, brok union is seeking from th report, due to be week and an exti from its 1980-81 The NUT al weight behind a ensure that nur becomes availabl dren from the as decided to enlis de parents, tea unionists.

## Dire outlook in chemistry teaching

By Our Education Correspondent

The fall in the number of secondary school pupils over the next decade could have dire consequences for the teaching of chemistry, Mr G. W. Beet, former principal lecturer at the Liverpool College of Higher Education, told a symposium of the education division of the Chemical Society in Durham yesterday.

Nationally, secondary school rolls would drop on average by 30 per cent, he said. In some areas the decrease would be much greater.

Concurrence of the physical sciences as separate subjects for pupils up to the age of 16 would be seriously threatened as schools became smaller.

Mr Beet spent two years as a member of a research team, directed by Professor Eric Briault at Sussex University and funded by the Department of Education and Science, which has been inquiring into the effects of falling rolls in 20 comprehensive schools. Professor Briault's report is to be published on April 28.

Mr Beet questioned whether chemistry should not be seen as the "sick man" of the curriculum. For the first three years

in secondary school it was common for pupils to spend only about a tenth of lesson time studying the three sciences, probably in the form of general or combined science.

Because biology teachers outnumbered those of chemistry and physics, general science was often taught by them. The chemistry and physics components of the course might well be neglected or badly taught.

When pupils in the fourth year came to choose from a list of optional subjects, many were lost to science because they felt ignorant and inadequate and lacked an understanding of basic scientific facts and concepts.

The smallness of sixth forms in many schools was giving cause for concern. It was difficult to argue that a group of two or three pupils studying, say, A level chemistry, was realistic, either in economic or educational terms.

A disproportionate amount of staff time was often given to sixth-form work, with the result that science classes lower down the school often contained thirty or more pupils.

The high rate of youth unemployment created further diffi-

culties. Several teachers reported that many of their brighter fifth-formers were leaving school at 16 to find jobs. The head of one science department said that more than half of his most promising pupils had been lost in that way.

As pupil numbers fell, heads had to take decisions about which staff to cut. Chemistry, as a minority subject, was often one of the first subjects to go.

Mr Beet went on to suggest a variety of measures aimed at combating the decline in the sciences in schools: special science boarding schools, could be established by universities and polytechnics, he said. Comprehensive schools in urban areas should be allowed to specialize in certain subjects, such as science or modern languages.

Education authorities should be encouraged to set up local science centres to which children might be released from school on, say, two half-days a week. Institutions of higher education might second staff for a year's teaching in schools. Weekend and vacation courses could be organized for pupils gifted in the sciences.

Leading article, page 15



Nicola George, aged eight (left), and Jane Meyrick, aged 11, two visitors making Easter bonnets at the Museum of London yesterday.

## Ex-undercover soldier stole from employers

By Christopher Warman Local Government Correspondent

Gambling was the downfall of Iain Allan, a former soldier in Northern Ireland, it was stated at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday when he was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for two years, for theft and deception.

Mr Allan, aged 36, now estranged from his second wife and living in London, admitted 13 offences of theft and deception while working for Nevill Give Up, a company of printers in Marylebone, between November 21 last and February 15. He also admitted stealing £25 from a colleague.

Mr Ronald Moss, for the defence, said Mr Allan, who had two convictions in 1977 for similar offences, was stationed in Berlin with the Army and he did three years' undercover work in Northern Ireland.

Mr St John Harnsworth ordered Mr Allan to repay the money in full.

## Labour sets largest rate rises

By Christopher Warman Local Government Correspondent

A survey of rate increases compiled by the Conservative Central Office shows that with almost no exceptions Labour-controlled councils are responsible for the largest rate rises while Conservative-controlled authorities have kept their increases to a minimum.

It indicates that Conservative councils have obeyed strictly the guidelines on spending laid down by the Government and complied with the plea from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, not to raise a penny more in rates than they must.

The response of Labour councils is that they were elected to provide services for their community and that the areas they control are those with the greatest needs.

The accompanying table, drawn up by the Conservative Party's local government organization, does not show the rate

rise for either domestic ratepayers or commercial and industrial ratepayers. The increases or decreases are on the rate levied by the district council or the precept levied by the county council.

To establish the total increase (there will be no overall rate decreases) it is necessary to add the county and district rates together, and then for house-

holders to deduct rate relief of 18.5% in England and 18% in Wales. The figures show that if Mr. Heseltine's local authorities' ceiling was adopted, Labour councils would have to raise rates by an average of 1.5% more than Conservative councils.

Rate increases outside London

Lab	Longbeough	75	Con	Stafford	178
Lab	Mid-Lancashire	49.4	Con	Rumney	88
Lab	Wellingborough	49.4	Con	Savile	75
Lab	Rhydyfelin	33.4	Con	Canterbury	53
Lab	South Yorks	34.5	Con	E. Northants	49.4
Lab	Sheffield	37.2	Con	Chichester	33.4
Lab	Derby	36	Con	S. Orkney	34.5
Lab	Newcastle upon Tyne	34.5	Con	Preston	34.5
Ind	Torridge	34.5	Con	S. Northants	33.3
Ind	Powys	33.3	Con	Wansley	32.2
Lab	Truro	32.2	Con	N. Cornwall	31.6
Lab	Cleveland	32.7	Con	S. Hants	31.6
Lab	Harrogate	31.6	Con	West-Bradford	31.2
Lab	W. Lindsey	31.6	Con	Teignbridge	31.2
G	Humberside	31.2	Con	Wendle	31.2
G	Swansea	31.2	NOC		
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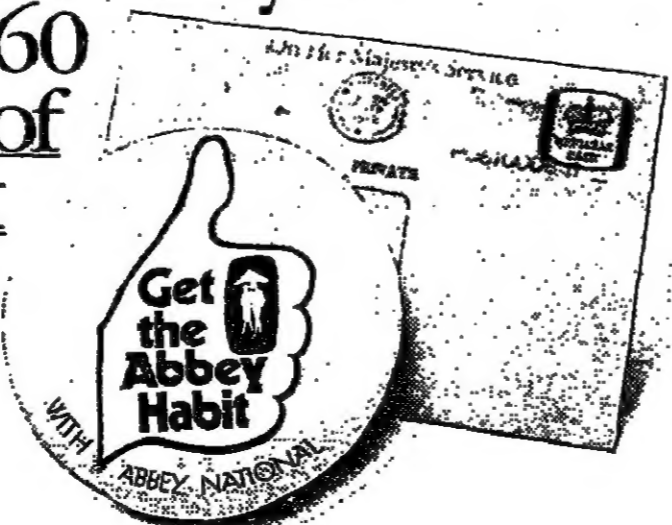
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## E NEWS

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By Frances Gibb  
Glasgow University is to delay any decision on the sale of 11 Whistler pictures from its art collection until the end of July in the hope that the cash needed for its new art gallery will be raised from private benefactors.

The decision, not yet officially announced, means that there is a strong chance that the £320,000 needed to meet the deficit on the new gallery, to be opened in July, will be raised in time to prevent the pictures being sold.

It was warmly welcomed by the all-party group, *Heritage in Danger*, yesterday. Mr Hugh Leggatt, secretary, said: "We are delighted that the university has agreed to postpone the sale and hope the decision will encourage benefactors, particularly from banks and oil companies, as the arts minister has advocated."

He urged Scots, not only in Britain but also in Canada and the United States, to support the university and help to preserve "the patrimony of Scotland". On no account should

the works be sold, he said. Sir Alexander Cairncross, the university's chancellor, and Dr Alwyn Williams, the vice-chancellor, have launched an appeal to try to raise from industrial and commercial enterprises the last of the money needed.

There is no hope of rescue by government agencies, including the University Grants Committee, they say in their letter. The only hope for the collection's remaining intact lies in a generous response to the appeal.

In March the university court, its governing body, agreed to delay a decision on the sale of the pictures for one month. It is understood that Dr Williams has now said any decision will be delayed until the end of the university's financial year.

The disclosure that the university was considering selling the works has aroused much criticism among arts and heritage groups. The university argued that with building costs at £1,400,000 and its reserves exhausted, the only alternative to a sale would be loss of teaching and other jobs.

Salisbury, clerk of the High Court, said that a long time to ponder of pupils, have been mooted, and last year Dr me, who had been boys' school for resigned after plans.

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University delays sale  
of Whistler pictures

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He urged Scots, not only in Britain but also in Canada and the United States, to support the university and help to preserve "the patrimony of Scotland". On no account should

the works be sold, he said. Sir Alexander Cairncross, the university's chancellor, and Dr Alwyn Williams, the vice-chancellor, have launched an appeal to try to raise from industrial and commercial enterprises the last of the money needed.

There is no hope of rescue by government agencies, including the University Grants Committee, they say in their letter. The only hope for the collection's remaining intact lies in a generous response to the appeal.

In March the university court, its governing body, agreed to delay a decision on the sale of the pictures for one month. It is understood that Dr Williams has now said any decision will be delayed until the end of the university's financial year.

The disclosure that the university was considering selling the works has aroused much criticism among arts and heritage groups. The university argued that with building costs at £1,400,000 and its reserves exhausted, the only alternative to a sale would be loss of teaching and other jobs.

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paintings of children, but a willingness among the trade and private buyers to pay high prices for the best works of the period. Roy Miles paid £130,000 and £100,000 for two Burne-Jones canvases, "The Heart of the Rose" and "Pilgrim at the Gates of Idleness", both with pre-sale estimates of between £50,000 and £100,000.

A Carline bazaar, subject by John Frederick Lewis was sold to the Fine Arts Society for £80,000 (estimate £80,000 to £120,000).

Frank Cadogan Cowper's "Eve", which made £2,500

BBC chief sees danger in  
corporation's cash gap

By Kenneth Gosling  
Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the BBC, said in London last night that any serious attempt by politicians of the left or right to meet the BBC's financial difficulties by forcing it to take advertising or by direct government grant would rouse such a storm of protest that they would quickly back down.

Delivering the Royal Television Society's Fleming Memorial Lecture, Sir Michael, reflecting on his departure in July, said: "There is no painless solution. Governments will have to set the licence fee at a reasonable level, and so control the income of commercial television that the disparity is not too great."

"I prefer to believe that the balance so far against us arises from government rather than from design. I doubt if they will raise the licence fee in a big way, though perhaps they should."

"They will, more probably, give us modest increases and modestly limit the income of commercial television by re-casting the levy."

"It will be as good a compromise solution as one can hope for in an uncivil world, and it will at least go some way towards restoring a balance of advantage that is getting dangerously out of true."

Earlier Sir Michael said it was wrong for the Government to "screw down" the BBC for no real reason other than "power encourages its aures".

The BBC never had a penny of government money for its home services; the licence fee was payment for a service, and he could think of no other area where any government tried to limit what people might spend.

He was concerned at the great and growing gap between the BBC and independent television.

"It is a distressing time to be leaving the chairmanship, because the situation is serious and in future years it could become grave", he said.

Undertaker hid  
stolen  
£700 in coffin  
John Deering, an undertaker, was said at Sparesbrook Crown Court, London, yesterday to have hidden £700 of his firm's cash in a coffin containing a body but forgot about it. What happened to the £700 is not known, the court was told. It was either buried or cremated.

Mr Victor Temple, for the prosecution, said the money was part of more than £2,000 which Mr Deering, aged 42, stole from his employers, Francis and C. Walters, funeral directors in Commercial Road, Stepney, London.

Mr Deering, of Portman Place, Bethnal Green, London, who was assistant manager, admitted 16 counts of theft and false accounting. A further eight counts were left on the file.

Judge Lewisohn sentenced Mr Deering to nine months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered him to pay £500 compensation to the undertakers.

In brief  
Remand on  
£1.5m charge  
Andrew Duncan MacFarlane, aged 36, a former financial investment administrator, was remanded in custody until tomorrow by Liverpool magistrates yesterday accused of stealing £1.5m belonging to University Superannuation Scheme Ltd.

Mr MacFarlane, of Wood Lane, Parkgate, Cheshire, was charged with stealing the cash between March 24 and March 25.

Remand on £3,000  
council deceit charge  
Roger Glenaves, aged 47, of Victoria Road, Finsbury Park, north London, was remanded on bail at Highgate yesterday accused of dishonestly obtaining more than £3,000 from Barnet council and other charges of deceit. Reporting restrictions were not lifted and the hearing was adjourned until April 23.

25 years' driving ban  
Findlay McLachlan, aged 42, of Kuowle Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, was banned from driving for 25 years and fined £700 by Birmingham magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to driving with excess alcohol in his blood and without insurance, failing to produce a test certificate, and careless driving.

Fingerprints check  
More than 2,000 youths and men on the Brierley council estate in Bradford are to have their fingerprints taken by the police seeking the killer of Mrs Gertrude Gray, aged 72. She was attacked at her maisonette in Heath Hall Avenue, Brierley, and died a few days later.

Student jailed  
Mr Helmut Osborne, aged 22, a Stanger University student who threw bags of flour at National Front marchers, was jailed for seven days by magistrates in Brighton yesterday. He admitted threatening behaviour.

## WEST EUROPE

Premier  
fails to save  
Belgian  
coalition

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, April 9

King Baudouin today accepted the resignation of the Belgian Government after the failure of Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, to resolve the differences within his coalition.

Last week a handful of senators from Mr Martens's own party, the Flemish wing of the Christian Democrats, voted with the Opposition against a crucial clause in a Bill laying the groundwork for a new system of regional administration.

Mr Martens immediately tendered his resignation but was asked by the King to make a final effort over Easter to save the coalition from collapse. Today he admitted failure and his resignation was accepted.

Belgium thus faces the possibility of its third general election in as many years. Before the King decides whether to call elections, he will explore with party leaders the possibility of putting together a different coalition under a new Prime Minister. This could take some days.

The collapse of the Martens Government was caused by the demand of militant Flemings (Dutch speakers) for a guarantee of equal representation in the 19 borough councils of Brussels and in the city's central administration, even though the capital's population is predominantly French speaking.

The Flemings fear that the regional reforms could lead to a federal set-up in which Brussels would have equal standing with Dutch-speaking Flanders in the north and French-speaking Wallonia in the south, giving the French speakers control of two out of the three regions.

Observers here believe that the King, who plays a more active political role than most constitutional monarchs, will want to do all he can to avoid new elections since these seem unlikely to make a solution of the basic issues any easier.



Winter is back in Bavaria. This was the Christmas card scene yesterday at Ramsau

Dr Owen condemns  
Walker EEC role

By Hugh Noyes

Dr David Owen, Labour's former Foreign Secretary, yesterday strongly criticized the attempts of Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, to change the rules of the European Community's "green" currency system in a way that would have meant a tax on food imports into Britain.

Mr Walker's aim has been to provide better protection for British food exporters and farmers who have been at a disadvantage because of the recent sharp rise in the value of the pound.

But Dr Owen, now Opposition spokesman on energy, said that Mr Walker's moves could well mark the point which would inexorably lead to Britain's withdrawal from the EEC.

Speaking to a Labour Party delegates' course at Esher College in Surrey, Dr Owen said that the Government's decision must be reversed even if it meant the resignation of Mr Walker.

The public, he said, was promised that Community membership would never mean that Britain, as a food importing nation, would have to tax food coming into Britain merely because it was a member of the EEC. The result of the move to do just that was that the Government had suddenly lost all credibility in Europe for its

demands to reform the common agricultural policy.

Britain, said Dr Owen, was now seen as advocating the high Community food prices that it had always condemned. Britain was seen as increasing the subsidy to its farmers while criticizing the subsidy of other countries, and it was adding to surplus products when it had been leading the crusade against nonsensical such as the butter mountain.

Dr Owen is one of Labour's leading supporters of the EEC and he was a close ally of Mr Roy Jenkins, now President of the European Commission, in the battle for British membership of the Community.

He said he was amazed that no one in the Government seemed to realize the full gravity of the recent steps it had so lightly taken. Britain was seen by its partners in Europe to be actively increasing its contribution to the Community budget which, for the past three years, successive governments had been trying to reduce.

Dr Owen suggested that Mr Walker seemed to have taken leave of his senses. The Government appeared to have conceded further EEC food price increases and had added to these increases a tax on food coming in to Britain. The result would be that the retail price index would rise and inflation and wage claims increase.

More informal talks on  
the future of Gibraltar  
Lisbon, April 9.—The British and Spanish foreign ministers have agreed to have a second round of informal talks tomorrow on the future of Gibraltar after a meeting today lasting just under an hour.

Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, said afterwards that "it was a good discussion", but neither he nor Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister, would comment on each other's viewpoints until after tomorrow's meeting.

The two ministers, meeting in the Portuguese Foreign Ministry, are discussing Gibraltar for the first time since the lower house of the Spanish Parliament empowered the Government last March to open the land link with the British colony, should London agree to formal negotiations about its future.

Neither side has indicated what concessions if any it is prepared to make to break the deadlock over Gibraltar.

In the 1967 referendum the people of Gibraltar voted to maintain their link with Britain. Two years later Spain sealed the land border with Gibraltar to put pressure on Britain to return the rock.—Reuter.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Computer offices set on fire in second Toulouse terror raid

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, April 9

Within four days of the raid by terrorists on the premises of the Philips Data Systems Company in Toulouse, those of another computer firm in the same city, the CII-Honeywell-Bull Company, were ravaged by fire early today.

Responsibility was claimed by the same "Action Group—27-28 March" in a telephone call today to the French press agency.

The call suggested a systematic plan to paralyse the operations of computer firms in France and destroy computer programmes, on the grounds that they are weapons in the hands of government.

This at least is the claim put forward last night by another group calling itself the "Clodo", or Committee for the Liquidation and Misappropriation of Computers. In a statement to the left-wing newspaper *Libération* last night, Clodo claimed that it, and not the "Action Group", was responsible for the raid on the Philips Data Systems premises.

"We are computer workers and, therefore, well placed to know the present and future dangers of computer systems," it said. "Computers are the favourite instrument of the powerful. They are used to classify, to rank, to select, to repress. We do not want to be shut up in the ghettos of programmes and organizational patterns."

Experts of the CII-Honeywell-Bull subsidiary in Toulouse said: "The commercial loss is incalculable."

The arsonists were out to destroy billing documents of clients of the firm. They broke into the offices on the second

floor of a tall block of flats and set fire to them.

The fire brigade was alerted shortly after 4 am by a night watchman. Within an hour, the fire was under control.

The 15 offices are black with soot, the lobby, where the archives and data programmes were burnt was ravaged by fire, and a demonstration computer destroyed.

The fire also damaged the balconies of the upper floors of the building, in which there are 84 flats. Half of them are without water and electricity.

The Toulouse branch of the firm was opened in these premises two years ago and employed some 70 people on the sale and maintenance of computers. No complete or top secret computer programmes were destroyed.

The clients of the branch were mainly government offices, wholesale businesses, or higher education establishments.

The "action group" said in its call today that it would authenticate its actions in future with the letters "OAO" on the floor of computer rooms raided by them. It added that the raid had been carried out with beer, acid and petrol. The documents recovered would be sent to the newspaper *Le Matin de Paris* with a detailed communiqué.

The judicial investigation of the raid on the premises of the Philips Data Systems Company has been entrusted to the Court for State Security, which is dealing with the case of members of the "direct action group" arrested last month in Paris and in Marseille.

The management of the Toulouse branch of Philips denied that the data destroyed or stolen were concerned with defence or counter-espionage.

## Vienna ceremony raises hopes for US-Soviet talks

Vienna, April 9.—Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has agreed in principle to come to Vienna next month for the twenty-fifth anniversary of Austria's State Treaty, a Soviet Embassy spokesman said today.

The confirmation increased prospects for the first high-level meeting between the Soviet Union and the United States since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan last December.

The United States, Britain and France, have already tentatively agreed to send their foreign ministers to the May 15 anniversary ceremony.

Austrian officials said they did not expect a final decision by the four governments on whether to send their ministers to Vienna until shortly before the ceremonies.—Reuters.

## Austrian ultimatum over allegations of bribery

From Sue Masterman  
Vienna, April 9

Herr Leopold Grutz, Mayor of Vienna, has given an ultimatum to three leading civil servants, directors of the company which is building the city's new general hospital. By Thursday they must produce evidence to refute allegations of bribery and corruption made against them by the leading Austrian weekly magazine *Profil*, or take the consequences.

The accusations include the claim that one of the directors has taken 18m schillings (1,000,000) commission on a contract signed with the big electronics firm Siemens. It is also said that a leading civil servant at the Ministry of Finance, also involved in the project, put pressure on the directors and the board of management to grant a valuable subcontract to the firm which put in the highest rather than the lowest tender.

Corruption scandals are part of everyday life in Vienna. What makes the case both interesting and potentially explosive is that it indirectly involves Dr Hannes Androsch, the Finance Minister and Vice-Chancellor, and Frau Ingrid Leodolter, the former Minister of Health.

When the new general hospital was first planned 20 years ago the costs were estimated at between £75m and £100m. Earlier this year a secret Treasury Control Department report was leaked, revealing the current estimated cost as £1,500m. It was also estimated that this might rise to £2,000m by the time the hospital, which has been built but is not yet equipped, is operational in 1988.

Investigations by the Austrian press led to letterbox companies in the Canary Islands and Seychelles which had obtained huge orders for advice which could not be documented and equipment which has yet to be delivered.

The press reported an increasing incidence of transactions involving two firms, Okodata and Consultatio.

Consultatio is a controversial tax consultancy and accounts bureau owned by Dr Androsch. A minority shareholder in Consultatio and a majority shareholder in Okodata is Dr Franz Bouver, a close friend and business associate of the Finance Minister. Okodata received a 45m open contract from Frau Leodolter to devise a new structure for the Health Ministry.

Okodata has received orders worth more than £5m for planning the running costs of the new hospital. A substantial share of this work has been sub-contracted to Consultatio.

## The Pope to address Unesco during visit to France

Rome, April 9.—The Pope announced today that he would visit France from May 30 to June 2 and would remain mostly in Paris.

He told a crowd in St Peter's Square that during the visit he would address Unesco on June 2.

"It will be a rapid trip during which I will have in the heart and anxiety of my soul the aspirations of all the inhabitants of the dear and noble French nation and also the high aims pursued by Unesco," the Pope said.

He said his trip, like previous journeys, would be "apostolic and pastoral" in nature. His visit to France will be the sixth trip he has made outside Italy since he was elected in October 1978. He is due to go to Africa on May 2 for 10 days.

In Paris, the Pope is expected to have talks with President Giscard d'Estaing while his address to Unesco, which is based in Paris, is likely to emphasize his desire for closer ties between the church and latest scientific and cultural developments.—Reuters.

## Coal may lower cost of motor fuel

Rotterdam, April 9.—It will almost certainly be cheaper to make liquid and gaseous fuels from coal rather than from oil by the end of this century, a British-sponsored symposium on new coal technology was told today.

Dr Joseph Gibson, a member of the National Coal Board, said that new ways of processing coal were being developed which would make this possible.

The technology for producing chemicals and motor fuels from coal had existed for more than 50 years but the higher cost compared with oil use had made this largely uneconomical so far.

However, there was far more recoverable coal than oil in the world, and it was likely that a change in price relative making coal liquefaction economically viable would eventually take place.—Reuters.

## OVERSEAS

## Mr Carter wants full Palestinian autonomy

Washington, April 9.—President Carter and President Sadat met here again today and made progress in the effort to revive talks on Palestinian autonomy, an informed source said.

It was the last of Mr Sadat's summit meetings during this visit and officials were cautious about commenting on the most important question, the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which form part of the tripartite negotiations.

The source said, however, that the main idea of the "separate summits" was to give negotiators on Palestinian autonomy new instructions enabling them to meet in three or four weeks for unlimited talks.

In Egypt's view, Palestinian autonomy should apply fully to the territories—the West Bank and Gaza Strip—occupied by Israel after the six-day war in 1967.

Israel wants to limit the extent and powers of this "autonomous entity", seeing it as the nucleus of a future independent Palestinian state, to which it is strongly opposed.

Observers do not know whether Mr Carter will be able to offer Mr Begin enough new proposals to bridge the Egyptian-Israeli gap.

Last night, a White House banquet for Mr Sadat, President Carter hinted to Israel that it was necessary to go back to the basics of the Camp David agreement and permit autonomy in the occupied territories.

Mr Sadat said today that recent developments in Iran, Afghanistan and the Gulf make it even more important to resolve the Palestinian question, "the core and crux" of the Middle East conflict.

Agence France-Presse and AP. No compromises: Israel indicated in Jerusalem today that it is not ready to make compromises in negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

The Cabinet told Mr Begin that he must adhere strictly to the terms of the Camp David accords during his talks with President Carter.

The decision apparently means that Israel is not ready to compromise on key differences of interpretation by the three sides. An important point of contention is the extent of power to be granted a proposed council to be set up after autonomy is granted to the Palestinians.

Egypt demands that the council have legislative powers while the Israelis insist it get only limited authority. Israel also wants to retain freedom of movement for its troops after autonomy.—Reuters.

## Former Shah leaves hospital for Cairo palace

Cairo, April 9.—The former Shah of Iran was discharged from hospital today and went to recuperate in the Kubbah Palace, usually reserved for visiting heads of state.

Accompanied by Vice-President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the Shah travelled in a convoy of 12 black limousines and an army ambulance. A team of Egyptian and American doctors had removed his enlarged spleen 12 days ago.

The Shah walked to the front door of the heavily guarded hospital in the Cairo suburb of Maadi and smilingly shook hands with the hospital staff.

Extra security precautions were taken inside and outside the hospital. Two armoured cars mounted with machine guns stood at the corner of the hospital and troops surrounded the entrances. It was not known how long the Shah would reside in the palace.

## Tehran buying up supplies through office in Austria

From Our Correspondent  
Vienna, April 9

Iran has reopened a bureau, part of its trade delegation attached to the Vienna embassy, to buy supplies to counter the effects of the American trade embargo. It is mainly buying food and spare parts.

The bureau is the first of its kind, but many other countries are trying to counter the effects of the American trade embargo. It is mainly buying food and spare parts.

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## Iran says Iraqi border clashes are intensifying with tanks and artillery now involved

From Tony Allaway  
Tehran, April 9

Growing conflict between Iranian and Iraqi forces, involving tanks and artillery, was reported here tonight. The official Pars news agency, which issued the reports in a series of bulletins, said that Iraqi helicopters also fired on Iranian positions.

The accuracy of the Pars reports was difficult to judge in the absence of independent witnesses. Western diplomats have suggested that previous Iranian reports of border skirmishes have been exaggerated and today's reports appeared confused.

But officials contacted on the border confirmed the artillery bombardments. One said they were continuing after nearly five hours.

According to the Pars agency, fighting began in the morning when Iraqi tanks and artillery fired on Iranian positions near Qasr Shahr, in the central border territory of the two countries.

At 2 pm, three Iraqi helicopters with machine guns shot at Iranian positions in the area.

Pars said. In reply the Iranians sent three helicopters and a Phantom jet. The agency did not say what operations they carried out.

After further attacks from Iraq with heavy weapons, the agency said, "heavy clashes" ensued.

The border officials contacted said that Iraqi forces had fought their way into Iranian territory but were beaten back by Iranian forces. Pars merely reported an Iraqi column moving towards the scene of fighting. The only report on casualties was of 15 members of the revolutionary guard reported injured, Pars said.

Earlier, Iranian officials had accused Iraqi jets of violating Iranian air space three times in the last two days on reconnaissance missions.

With all Iranian forces on full alert, the chief of the air force took personal control of Hamedan Air Force base close to the troubled area.

The Tehran newspaper *Keyhan* today quoted an informed source at the border as saying Egyptian troops had arrived in Iraq and were preparing to attack Iraq. Army officials, however, said they had

no indications of the presence of Egyptians in Iraq.

Both Egypt and Iraq are the sworn enemies of Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran. By the same token, Mr Sadat, Quabacha, the Iranian Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying that his Government was determined to overthrow the Iraqi Baathist Government headed by that United States agent Saddam Hussein.

There were more reports from the border today of refugees of Iranian origin being forced back into Iran by Iraqi security forces. The gendarmes commander of Kermanshah province, in which Qasr Shahr is located, put the number of refugees at 9,700. Officials in Tehran have estimated that there are 16,000 people of Iranian ancestry in Iraq likely to be affected by the expulsions.

According to the Tehran press the refugees included at least 400 businessmen who complained that they had been falsely invited to the Communist Party in Baghdad and there stripped of their possessions, loaded on lorries and sent to the border.



Mr Ali Agah, the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in Washington, at Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday.

## EEC members consider US call for sanctions

Continued from page 1

After a Cabinet meeting devoted largely to the Iran crisis, Dr Armin Grönewald, a Government spokesman, said the situation was causing the Government "great concern".

West Germany, he said, "will act as a friend and partner" of the United States.

Paris: There was no mention at today's weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers, of any reaction by the French Government to the American call for support in applying sanctions.

(Charles Hargrove writes.) But it is pointed out in informed circles here that France has repeatedly expressed her solidarity with the United States over the matter of the hostages. France voted for the American resolution on sanctions in the Security Council last January, and would have enforced it had it been carried.

The French Government will consult its partners in the EEC in the next few days to decide what common action might be taken to demonstrate that the solidarity more effectively than merely through hollow condemnations. It considers that any action taken against Iran must be in an international context.

Washington to act on its behalf, the Iranian Government announced.—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

they could have the effect of reinforcing still further the position of the extremists of driving the country into the Russian camp. So long as there is some hope of avoiding this, it is argued in Paris, it is sensible not to break off all communications with Tehran.

The French Government has been somewhat put off by the vagaries of American policy towards the Iranian revolutionary regime.

Rome: The Italian position in principle is that no decision will be taken unless it is jointly made with the other eight members of the Community (Peter Nichols writes.)

Whitehall hint: Whitehall would not be officially drawn on the contents of the American request but a Foreign Office spokesman noted that a Japanese news agency was reporting a request for withdrawal of ambassadors (Our Foreign Staff writes.)

The spokesman added: "You can draw your own conclusions."

United States interests: The United States has asked Switzerland to represent its interests in Iran. The Swiss Foreign Ministry said in Bern, Iran has asked the Algerian Embassy in Washington to act on its behalf, the Iranian Government announced.—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

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## World-View

## Signor Cossiga's change of horses

Signor Cossiga's Government, Italy's thirty-ninth since 1945, was formed after a crisis which lasted only 16 days. According to calculations which I made a few years ago, the average duration of the first 25 governments in Italy, between 1946 and 1973, was of 22 days. But while the first 14 crises, between 1945 and 1959, lasted only 14 days each (this meant that Italy was without a government for only 13 days a year), between 1960 and 1972 crises lasted 31 days each and Italy was without a government for more than a month each year.

Indeed, things kept getting worse: between 1961 and 1972, crises lasted 36 days each and Italy was without a government for 55 days each year. The peak was reached last year, when Italy had a caretaker Government, led by Signor Andreotti, from March 31 until August 4, a period which included a premature general election on June 3-4.

Signor Cossiga's achievement in forming his second government in just 16 days is even more remarkable if one considers that he convinced the Socialists to join again a coalition government (together with the Republicans) after they had been outside governments for more than six years. How did he manage to bring this about?

The Centre-Left, which seemed dead?

Signor Cossiga, a quiet Sicilian, is not considered a particularly clever politician. He is not a clever operator in Italy, but only an honest man of notable intellectual qualities. For an "unclever" operator, he managed quite well a traditional Christian Democracy, a political manoeuvre which is called the "change of horses". What happened was the following:

When Signor Cossiga formed his first government, the Christian Democrats were led by Signor Zacc

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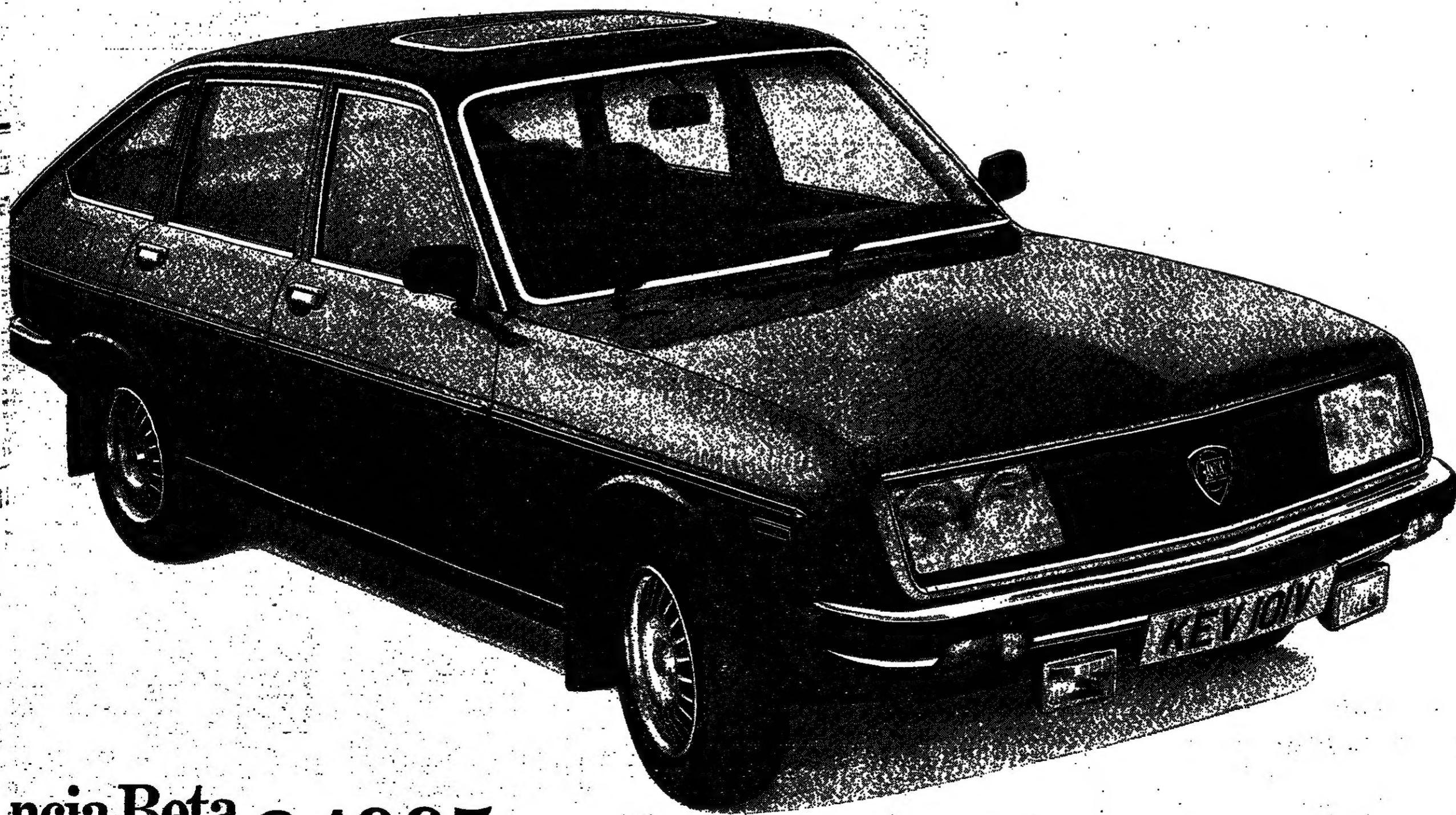
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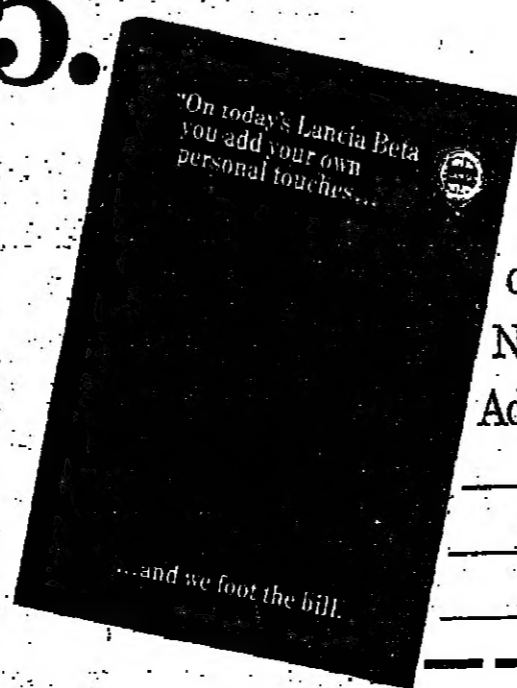
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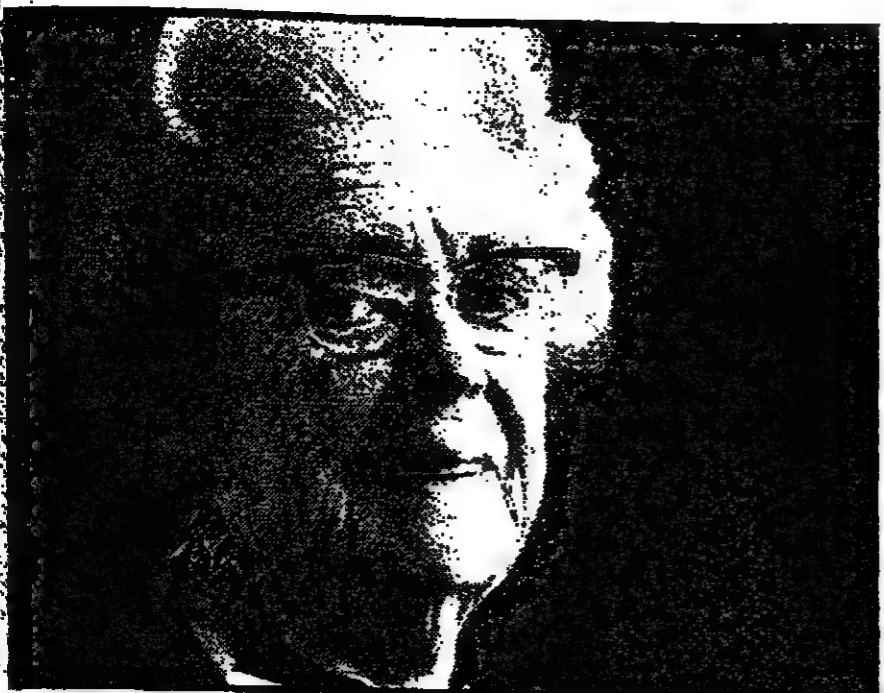


Pena Gomez, a -  
doza in Argentina.  
dual citizenship. It  
knock out Castaldi!  
round; Gomez, ace  
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## Asking for more money: how the methods have changed . . .



Harry Merr

Baroness Wootton of Abinger contributes the first of a new weekly series of guest features.

"Not a penny off the pay, not a minute on the day." That, believe it or not, was the slogan under which my colleagues and I were employed by the TUC to fight for miners' wages in 1926. It was a slogan which led to the 1926 General Strike. Not that our efforts were crowned with success. Between 1921 and 1924 over a week was slashed off the wages of industrial workers. The miners, months after the collapse of the general strike, were struggling at a heavy price in day and working hours.

Then, it may be asked, are not wage reductions being imposed? The economic outlook is at least as bleak now as in the early 1920s and the collapse of workers then unemployed (and by official statistics less so than those of today) was a stark reality with the current figures.

One obvious explanation is of course, increased power of the unions. Not to them have more members and money than fifty years ago but the compass of their membership has led them to fuller appreciation of the potential of "industrial muscle".

Reason with which to defend their living standards. Nevertheless, the government sticks rigidly to its demand that wage negotiations be conducted only by employers and their representatives, and are as much the private

business of the participants as is the haggling over the sale of a silk scarf between a tourist and a stallholder in an Oriental bazaar.

So our rulers prefer to pay homage to the sacred cow of "free collective bargaining", while cutting living standards by such backdoor methods as the imposition of VAT and increased charges for transport, gas and electricity.

That, however, is not the whole story. The premises on which collective bargaining rests are themselves changing from the purely economic to the mainly ethical. Whereas in the preparation of wage claims we used to pore over company accounts in order to assess employers' ability to pay, the modern fashion is for claims to be expressed in terms of "fairness" as between one group's pay and that of others.

Indeed today negotiators often seem to be more concerned to keep their eyes on one another than to examine the state of their employers' balance sheets. Emphasis is laid on the plight of the low paid, while once unfamiliar phrases such as the "going-rate" are creeping into habitual use in the vocabulary of collective bargaining. Significantly also in the election campaign that precipitated his downfall, "fairness" was Edward Heath's favourite word in reference to his offer to the miners.

As yet, however, there is no accepted criterion of "fairness". In practice, unions with members in the lower ranges of the League Table of Industrial Earnings seek to reduce their distance from the median while those in the upper half, who may have shipped a few places downwards, assert their right to former rank—as witness the mineworkers who, after losing ground in the early seventies, now reign proudly at the head of the official (April 1979) New Earnings Survey.

If every body plays this game, the result must clearly be a continuous upward movement within a highly conservative pattern of relativities. As the Pay Board observed in 1974: "Collective bargaining as it is practised in this country has no mechanism for making enduring changes in the relative pay of groups in separate negotiating units". However, as long as the Clegg Commission on Comparability survives and defines comparability by what people do, not by what they are paid, order may be imposed on chaos at least in respect of the ethical aspects of wage patterns. Inevitably this means driving a coach and horses through the League Table but in so doing the Commission, we may hope, will facilitate the establishment of a pay structure which is both ethically defensible and economically viable.

That might be achieved by the imposition of a graduated excess income tax on any net increase of income (whether earned or unearned) over the previous year, with prescribed exemptions (eg for low pay, or small businesses) modelled on the procedure of the former Prices and Incomes Board.

Although this proposal would hardly be acceptable to a government whose first budget presented taxpayers with £4,610m annual additional spending money (£1,560m of it going to those with gross incomes over £10,000), might not Labour moderates find time to consider it in the intervals of planning the rout of the Left? At least it would be a genuine incomes policy treating speculators and persons of independent means on the same terms as the employed population, who alone are now expected to limit increases in their incomes.

Barbara Wootton

## The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

Why we had not been introduced earlier is a puzzle. For an American edition of *The Classic Italian Cookbook* has been available here for six years. Now, thank goodness, because the book has become an instant friend and because I never quite believe that American cooks and short punts will work, Marcella Hazan has rewritten all her recipes with metric and imperial measures. The new version is published today by Macmillan, price £9.95.

It is subtitled *The art of Italian cooking and the Italian art of eating* and it is a book with views as illuminating and pungent as the flavours and directions for achieving them enclosed between its covers.

"The world of the Italians is not a phenomenon that needs to be subdued, reshaped, arranged in logical patterns . . . The essential quality of Italian food can be defined as fidelity to its ingredients, to their taste, colour, shape and freshness. In the Italian kitchen ingredients are not treated as promising but untutored elements that need to be corrected through long and intricate manipulation and refined by the ultimate polish of a sauce. The methods of Italian cooking are not intended to improve an ingredient's character, but rather to allow it as much free and natural development as the taste-balance of a dish will permit."

Marcella Hazan admits that the best cooking in Italy is not to be found in restaurants but in the home. "One of the reasons that Italian restaurants outside Italy are often so poor is that they do not have Italian home cooking with which to compete."

"Italian food may be a mid-night spaghetti snack after the theatre, a pizza and a glass of wine, a cool salad on a sultry summer noon. But an Italian

meal is something else entirely: it is a many-layered experience far richer and more complete than this."

As she explains: "There is no main course to an Italian meal. With some very rare exceptions, such as *osso buco* or *risotto*, the concept of a single dominant course is entirely foreign to the Italian way of eating. There are, at a minimum, two principal courses which are never, never brought to the table at the same time."

"The first course may be pasta either in broth or with sauce, or it can be a *risotto* or a soup. *Minestrone*, which is the Italian for 'soup', is also used to mean the first course whether it is a soup or not. This is because, to the Italian mind, the first proper course, even when it has been preceded by *antipasti* (hors d'oeuvres) and even when it is sauced pasta or *risotto*, is still a soup in the sense that it is served in a deep dish and that it always precedes and never accompanies the meat, poultry or fish course."

"After there has been sufficient time to relish and consume the first course, to salute its passing with some wine, and to regroup the taste buds for the next encounter, the second course comes to the table. The choice of the second course is usually a development of the theme established by the first. The reverse may also be true, when the first course is chosen in anticipation of what the second will be. . . . The second course is often attended by one or two vegetable dishes which may sometimes develop into a full course of their own."

Marcella Hazan's *antipasti* and dessert offerings have a ring of truth in their modesty when contrasted with the colourfully groaning tables and trolleys of Italian restaurants. Her instructions for making, cooking and serving pasta (too full alas to be quoted here) are the best I have come across, and her suggestions at the end of recipes of what might precede or follow them are a valuable aid to decision.

The recipes which follow are for a first and second course and a salad—mussel soup, mackerel with rosemary and garlic, and a salad of courgettes. I would not serve much more than olives or a few slices of good salami before the soup, and fresh fruit to end the meal.

"This soup is a robust dish of mussels cooked briefly in tomato and garlic. No liquid is added and the mussels release the juices from their shells to form the soup. To prepare

fresh mussels scrub them very thoroughly in cold water with a stiff brush and pull or cut off the tuft of beard clutched by each one. Throw away any with broken shells, and any which feel much lighter or heavier than the rest.

The recipe calls for Italian wholemeal bread which is not widely available, so substitute another kind, or leave out the toasted bread and serve hot crusty rolls or bread separately.

Mussel soup

Serves four

2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped

6 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon coarsely chopped parsley

225g (8oz) tinned Italian tomatoes, drained and chopped

1th teaspoon chopped or powdered chilli

900g (2lbs) fresh mussels, cleaned and scrubbed

4 slices Italian wholemeal bread, *pane integrale*, toasted and (optional) rubbed with garlic

Choose a casserole large enough to hold the mussels later. Sauté the garlic in the oil over a moderate heat until it has coloured lightly. Add the parsley, stir once or twice, then add the cut-up tomatoes and the chopped chilli. Cook, uncovered, at a gentle simmer for about 25 minutes, or until the tomatoes and oil separate.

Add the mussels, cover the casserole, raise the heat to high, and cook until the mussels open their shells, about 3 to 5 minutes. To get all the mussels to cook evenly, grasp the casserole with both hands, holding the cover down tight, and shake it sharply two or three times.

Put the 4 slices of toasted bread in 4 soup dishes and ladle the mussels, with all their sauce, over the bread. Serve piping hot.

Of mackerel with rosemary and garlic Marcella Hazan says: "In the small fishing towns along the Adriatic coast this is a very popular way of cooking mackerel; the slow cooking in oil keeps its firm flesh tender and juicy and the subdued taste of rosemary and garlic make mackerel's robust flavour gentler and very appealing."

Mackerel with rosemary and garlic

Serves four

6 tablespoons olive oil

4 cloves garlic, peeled

4 mackerel about 350g (12oz) each, cleaned but with heads and tails on

1 small sprig of fresh rosemary, crumbled

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Juice of 1 lemon

Lemon wedges

Wash the mackerel under cold running water and pat dry. Heat the oil in a casserole and lightly sauté the garlic. Add the mackerel and rosemary and lower the heat to medium.

Brown the fish well on each side but take care that it does not stick to the pan. (Should it stick, be careful as you turn it so that it does not break up.) Season each side with salt and pepper.

When the fish is nicely browned add the lemon juice, cover with a tight-fitting lid, turn the heat down to low, and cook slowly for approximately 15 minutes, or until tender. Serve piping hot with wedges of lemon.

Courgette salad

Serves four to six

6 small to medium courgettes

3 large cloves of garlic peeled and crushed

8 tablespoons olive oil

2 in 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Soak the courgettes in cold water for 10 minutes then scrub them thoroughly. Bring 4 to 5 litres (7 to 9 pints) of water to the boil, then drop in the courgettes. Cook at a moderate boil until tender but not soft and easily pierced by a fork, about 30 minutes, more or less. When done, drain, cut off the ends and cut lengthways into halves. While they are still hot, rub the flesh with the crushed garlic.

Arrange the courgettes, flesh side up, in a single layer on a dish. Drop up the dish at one end so that while the courgettes cool any excess liquid will gather at the other end. Do not refrigerate.

When the courgettes are cool, discard the liquid from the dish and season with oil, vinegar, parsley and about eight twists of the pepper mill, adding salt only when just ready to serve. To prevent the courgettes from continuing to throw off liquid.

A warning to prospective buyers of *The Classic Italian Cookbook*. Contrary to reasonable assumption it contains no recipe for pizza. But of pizza, more next week.

# Isn't it time your company got its expenses together?

28 / 9 / 1979

REFERENCE NUMBER	LISTING OF CHARGES AND CREDITS	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT	PREVIOUS BALANCE
			372.24
0674227	PAYMENT RECEIVED - THANKYOU		372.24
0616074	BRITISH AIRWAYS		94.50
0770064	NOVA PARK HOTEL ZURICH		
	250.58 SWISS FRANCS BILLED AS		73.43
0800334	HERTZ RENT A CAR AG		
	118.60 SWISS FRANCS BILLED AS		34.75
0790064	STROGANOFF REST. ZURICH		
	182.87 SWISS FRANCS BILLED AS		53.58
0784035	HUNSTRETE HOUSE HOTEL		27.10
PREVIOUS BALANCE	372.24	NEW CHARGES 283.37	NEW CREDITS 372.24
			NEW BALANCE 283.37

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Gregory Trevorton on Soviet military miscalculations and their possible consequences

## A flaw in the Kremlin master plan

It is more and more obvious that the Soviet Union miscalculated in its invasion of Afghanistan, underestimating both the difficulty of gaining control on the ground and the international reaction, especially by Muslim and Third World countries. It is also striking how badly the Russians have played the question of theatre nuclear forces (TNF). President Brezhnev's speech of last October was too little and too late as an attempt to prevent NATO from going ahead with its December decision to deploy long-range cruise and ballistic missiles in Western Europe.

Seeing the Russians miscalculate is a usual antidote to common images of the men in the Kremlin coldly unfolding a grand strategic plan. We know that our own politicians spend most of their time worrying about prices, budgets and local services, yet sometimes we sound as though Soviet leaders, faced with even more daunting internal problems, spend all the time plotting a global chessboard. We also know the bumbling of our own leaders, and it would be surprising in-

stead if their Russian counterparts, men surrounded by numbing bureaucracy and imprisoned in their own propaganda, did not make mistakes of their own from time to time.

Yet it is important to consider the rigidities that breed Soviet missteps and to think about implications for the next round of Soviet policy. Moscow probably has not made up its own mind how to respond to its dilemma in Afghanistan or how to play TNF. Nor is it likely to do so soon.

Western commentary on the SS-20 missile illustrates the problem of interpreting Soviet miscalculations. The SS-20 is often seen as a mistake, having cost Moscow more than it was worth. To deploy a new and very capable missile for use against Western Europe just when Americans were fretting over the nuclear balance, hence Europeans worried over the credibility of the United States nuclear guarantee to Europe, was almost to assure just the outcome the Soviet Union wanted to prevent. The SS-20, more than anything else, helped

public opinion in Western Europe choke down NATO's December decision on theatre nuclear forces.

However, that assessment risks a serious error in timing. Given the lead times, the final decision to produce and deploy the SS-20 would have been taken in the late 1960s or early 1970s, not the mid 1970s. In the earlier period the Soviet logic no doubt was straightforward: the existing Soviet intermediate-range systems, the SS-4s and SS-5s, were old; SALT I left such systems unconstrained; new technology for a successor, the SS-20, existed; so why not build it?

Even if Soviet leaders had begun to have second thoughts about the political wisdom of the SS-20 by the time it was ready to be deployed, in 1977, there was powerful momentum behind it. At that point, foregoing or curtailing it would have meant acting against a military programme well down the track, something Western governments, let alone Moscow, find hard to do. That is one reason why Moscow has played the TNF issue so badly.

Using a high card before NATO's December decision—such as announcing a freeze on the SS-20 deployment—was hard. It ran against ingrained habit and military interest and, moreover, it may have seemed unnecessary. Moscow may have been persuaded that a lower card, such as the vague offer of negotiations made by Brezhnev in October, would suffice to stop NATO. Men in the Kremlin may still so calculate (or at least those responsible for the early approach have reason still to say that time will validate it).

That suggests that the Soviet Union will not make forthright moves on TNF this year. Moreover, they must calculate that TNF can only be negotiated with the United States and fear that any higher card played this year would only be lost, or taken for granted by the administration elected in 1981. What we can expect from Moscow is more of the same, short of a substantive move: efforts to enlist European neutrals in a campaign against the NATO plan, plus attempts to break particular NATO coup-

tries away from the Alliance decision.

Similarly, it is hard to imagine that the Soviet leadership has come to a settled view of what its troubles over Afghanistan imply for its next actions. Certainly the immediate aftermath of the invasion suggests the Russians were surprised. In their view, sending Sakharov into internal exile may have been necessary to get him out of Moscow before the Olympics, but the timing could hardly have been worse. It brought Western nations together just when they seemed about to go off in different directions. If the Soviet Union really sought to divide Europe and America after Afghanistan, that would have been the time to play a higher card on TNF.

The Kremlin does not work well when it is surprised; managing crises is easier when they are of Moscow's making. In any event, decisions on TNF, Afghanistan or anything else, take time. Once taken they are not easily tampered with and in that sense it is

Cabinet government with a vengeance.

The actions we see now almost certainly do not represent firm Soviet decisions and it would be unwise to read too much into them. That is a particular pitfall at this stage in the life cycle of a crisis when, predictably, some Western opinions are worrying that we might have over-reacted and are searching for signs of a more constructive Soviet attitude. But recent Soviet proposals, such as a conference on access to Persian Gulf oil, are part propaganda, kicking up dust to take the world's eyes off the Soviet action, part trial balloon.

On both Afghanistan and TNF, the Soviet Union will delay firm decisions because decision-making in the Kremlin takes time even without informed leaders and because the international environment must look at least as uncertain to Russia as it does to us.

The author is assistant director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London.

Bernard Levin

## The joy of shedding their chains

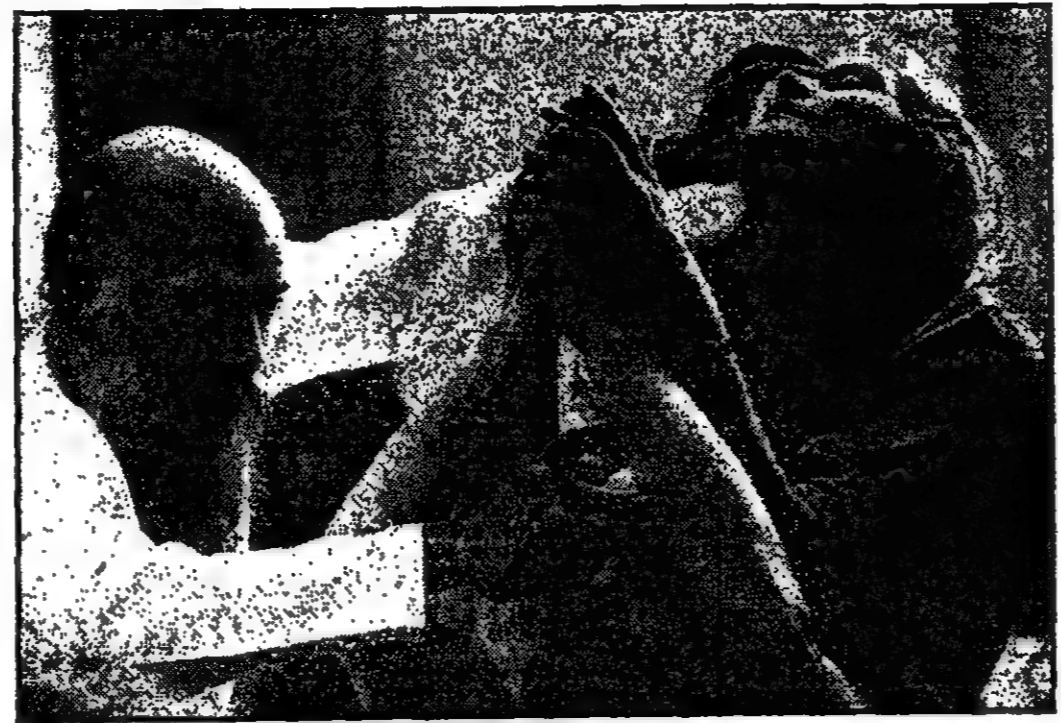
If it is true, and I cannot see how it could not be, that a man must be known by his fruit, the followers—he calls them *neo-sannyasins*—of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh are in general an exceptionally fine crop, hearing witness to a tree of a choice, rare nature. The first quality a visitor to Rajneesh's ashram notices—and he never ceases to notice it—is the ease and comfort with which they wear their faith. Though they are unshakably convinced (I met only one with any residual doubts) that Rajneesh has enabled them to find a meaning for their lives and for their place in the universe, there was no trace of fanaticism in them, and in most not even fervour. A prominent British journalist would have been a considerable catch for them, and they were plainly aware of it. Their efficiency and thoroughness with which they met all my requests, answered all my questions and showed me all I wanted to see, made it quite clear that the administrative side of the enterprise is fully aware of the world outside and of the way it runs; whatever else these people are, they are not spiritual troglodytes. But if they would have been pleased to lead me there were never a glimpse of a net; the hours of talk were absolutely free of any proselytising. They have truly understood what Rajneesh meant by the words I quoted yesterday: "If you go to Hell willingly, you will be happy there; if you are forced into Paradise you will hate it."

The joy with which they are clearly filled is, as anyone who listens to Rajneesh must deduce it would be, directed outwards as well as in; I cannot put it better than in saying that they consistently extend to each other and to strangers the best of love, though without the ego-filled demands of love as most of the world knows it. They have shed their chains, and they demonstrated their freedom easily and unobtrusively, though the results at first can be startling: a young married couple I met spoke within ten minutes of a marital problem not usually discussed before strangers for indeed at all, yet there was no extroversion or inverted vanity involved, only the innocent naturalness of the nakedness in Eden before the fall.

They come not only from haunts of coast and herb, but from all over. I met an accountant, a journalist, a psychotherapist, a housewife, a farmer, a lecturer in Business Studies, among others. Few of them are pursuing their own professions on the ashram (the lecturer in Business Studies agreed cheerfully that there was not much call for such things there, Rajneesh) and those who live full-time on the premises or for the place is very over-crowded—in Poona itself, are commonly assigned tasks which are themselves designed as part of the learning process. The point being that when an individual finds himself doing the floor-scrubbing with real joy, he is already a long way towards the goal.

Of course, everything that happens on the ashram is designed for the same purpose. The workshops are extensive and impressive; these are no fumbling amateurs messing about with batik and linocuts, but serious craftsmen turning out furniture, metalware, silver inlaying, screen-printing and the like, of high quality. But the point is that almost all of them started without any skill at these trades. The further point is that they are all obviously happy in their work, and the point beyond that is that they would obviously still be happy if they were there doing something else entirely; this is not a story of people who discover an unsuspected talent in themselves, but one of the searchers who find in themselves something of which all talents, in whatever activities whatsoever, are gleaming reflections.

The encouragement of this discovery is also the purpose of the therapy-groups and the various forms of "dynamic meditation". Liberation from the ego must start with liberation from the layers of self-consciousness in which we are wrapped as in the "suffragan" (I don't think Omar Khayyam would have noticed much of the suffragan's teaching in it, mind you). This consisted of simple things, though not simply spontaneous: stops and movements, with constant change of partners and such exercises as pausing to look into the eyes of neighbours. It was dragged onto the floor by one of the new recruits ("You don't have to do anything") and even this limited experience of the disembarrass-



Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh... an extraordinary 'energy-transfer'.

sing process made me see its necessity and efficacy.

There is jargon, of course. An experienced "healer" someone is "into" this or that technique; asked what he had been before coming to the ashram, one young man replied, not "a musician", but "I moved in music energy". Clearly he has never occurred to the use of the full-bearded, long-haired men that they were unconsciously trying to resemble Rajneesh; instead, there was much easy talk of the difficulty of shaving in cold water and the poor quality of Indian razor blades. (For that matter, it did not require psychic gifts to see that many of the women are plainly in love with Rajneesh.)

They are, as I say, free of doubt; but they wear their certainty like a nimbus, not a sword. A Canadian girl I met had an ease and naturalness that were like magic; she made me want to hug her, though I hardly need say I didn't. (Only afterwards did I realize that if I had done so she would have taken the gesture for no more than it was: an innocent salute to her almost incredible vitality.) Even more relaxed was the formidable Laxmi, one of the only two people who ever see Rajneesh as he is: she is the administrative head of the enterprise, and she glows with a force that nearly knocked me down. And she was the first to say, in answer to my question as to what Rajneesh was to them, that they regarded him as God. I invited her to elaborate, and she willingly did: but if he is God, he is a very undisciplined one, and certainly in his discourses there is no hint even of "Who says that I am?" only a power-

ful sense that he is a conduit along which the vital force of the universe flows. (One of the ashram-dwellers, when I asked the same question—what do you regard Rajneesh as?—put it impressively in two words: "A reminder.") But there is no doubt that Rajneesh is regarded at the very least, of being possessed of psychic powers. He never now leaves his quarters, except

'They are free of doubt; but they wear their certainty like a nimbus. not a sword.'

for the morning discourses (the evening gatherings are held on a terrace abutting on to his rooms, and he has even given up his former practice of walking in his private garden); when I asked why he never looked in on the various groups to see how the work was going, the reply, immediate and without affectation, was, "But he does—only not in the body". He speaks for himself at the daily discourses, of course, and for the rest of the time Laxmi speaks for him. On my second visit, however, last week, I could almost have wished she had not, for she told me of his view that Mahatma Gandhi was wrong in his attempt to break the hideous grip of the caste system, to call the "Untouchables" Harijans, meaning "Children of God", for this

had had the effect of boosting their ego—a remark which must rank high on anybody's list of the dozen most ridiculous things ever said.

There is constant talk of a move to the new ashram, for which planning permission is still being laboriously negotiated. This is to be so large that all the *sannyasins* who want to live on it will be able to do so, and it will be entirely self-supporting; I was even shown detailed coloured drawings of the projected layout and buildings. On my first visit I sensed, or thought I did, that the whole project was chimerical, that the new ashram was to remain a dream, and that the dreaming was itself part of the technique, but on my second they insisted that the project was realistic and their intentions definite. I have heard the *sannyasins* temporary sojourn at the ashram (many come for a month or so at a time, often using their annual leave for the purpose) described as a holiday; if so, it is a holiday with remarkably therapeutic qualities. For I met no one who did not testify to the gains the experience had brought, and none who lacked the visible sign of such gains.

Is anything lost? I think not. But I am not quite certain. For some, perhaps, there is a softening of the wrong kind, a loss of definition, of individuality in the better sense. I found myself wondering how they would get on in extreme situations, of privation or persecution, or even flunk back into the pressures of the life the rest of us lead. Perhaps some would be unable to cope, but then, look at the numbers who are unable to cope

with a huge and radiant smile and apt words of greetings, those who had been away; he gave a third, group an extraordinary "energy-transfer", pressing with his middle finger (like a violinist stopping a string) on the centre of their foreheads, over the "third eye", to which experience reactions clearly varied from nothing at all to something close to convulsions; and he said an equally individual farewell to those who were leaving, ending in each case with the same formula, an inquiry as to their destination followed by the words "Help my people there".

Some would say they would do better to stay in Poona and help the rest-dwellers; some, more subtly, would argue that they should help the wedding-guests. Some, and on the whole I rather think I am one of them, would say that both arguments have missed the point of Rajneesh's teaching, which is concerned to enable the individual to put himself right, since until that is done he can hardly hope to put others right. I came away, impressed, moved, fascinated, by my experience of this man (or God, or conduit, or reminder) and the people ("be ordinary and you will become extraordinary") around him. I came away, also, to a haunting fragment of time; beside the road leading to the ashram there was, in addition to the bearded, a rather tall, simple wooden fence. As I passed him for the last time he was playing a familiar tune: how he had learnt it, and what he believed it to be, I could not even begin to imagine. It was "Polly put the kettle on".

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Ronald Butt's column will be resumed in two weeks' time.

## The censor's sternest foe

Censorship is as rife now as when John Milton made his impassioned plea to Parliament in 1644 for "the liberty of unlicensed printing". But for the last 10 years at least it has not gone undisturbed. Since a small magazine, *Index on Censorship*, took up the fight for freedom of expression almost a decade ago, cases of censorship throughout the world have been noted and published, and censored writings given a new outlet.

In one of many tributes to its work, *Index* has published a book by a new member of its staff, *Index on Censorship: A History of the Magazine*. The book is a history of the magazine, not only because it is a small book which can be read in one sitting, but also because it helps many others in similar circumstances.

The staff of the *Index* still operates from the old, tiny Covent Garden office where it was born nearly 10 years ago. But the magazine itself has since made huge inroads in the world outside for creating awareness of censorship in all its guises. Now it is established, the man who built it up to a small but influential circulation of 3,000 in 12 countries is retiring from the editorship to spend more time writing.

A passionate believer in freedom of expression, Michael Scammell can look back on several achievements. The *Index* was the first publication to draw attention to the censorship in Iran and the harassment of writers there in 1974; it was also the first—last September—to publish in English the Chinese human rights manifesto which led to the arrest of China's leading dissident, Wei Jingsheng.

Mr Scammell is more concerned, however, with individuals. "To affect an individual's life," he says, "is probably more important than anything else." He cites the case of the black South African poet Don Matheba, who stopped writing after his work was banned. The *Index* published some of his poems and letters, realizing that he had an audience once more, started again to write.

The magazine is probably

Michael Scammell: in freedom of expression

unique among human organisations. Unlike traditional ones, it is not concerned with "the conscience", those actually been imprisoned but who just as devastating to or artists' life.

It came about after just over 10 years ago. Livrino to the world condemnation of the his fellow Soviet. Galskovic and Gine phet Spender, the other well-known writers, wrote "I am support. They be kernel of a commit in turn became the W Scholars Educational The charitable trust council members: Yehudi Menuhin, Sir Michael Tippett, Ibury, Angus Wilk, Blom-Cooper, Tom as a fantasy, spoke (chairman) in the organisation for the in a non-profit making company, which in freedom—should it is of taking a polit With a greater an human rights.

years ago, the *Index* ready-made audience circulation, on which tence entirely depend small. Mr Scammell biggest disappointment been how hard it people's consciousness importance of free press. It is the he argues, the enables other about communicated.

From

Continuing our occasional series of new words and new meanings

## All of a jumble

Elephants never forget, but

by jumbos. This been used in English since the late 18th century. It probably came from a group of 10 guinea, a branch of the Congo family, spoken in Mali, Guinea and Senegal. The word *jumbo* was a tribal god. Mu has since come to a sedition or gibberish.

Until *jumbo* the word had indicated bling clumsiness in manner rather than in size. Over the years *jumbo* has been used to describe a colloquial and childish synonym for an elephant. And we are all now using it in an interesting word before it became the name of a famous elephant.

The change in meaning happened in 1865, when the London Zoo acquired the first African elephant to be kept in the zoo of England, and one of the first seen in Europe since Harubal's travelling circus. The zoo got it from the *Jardin des Plantes* in Paris in exchange for a rhinoceros, which, since you mention it, he is in the pictures just like Jimi Hendrix.

The elephant arrived in a wretched condition: half-starved, filthy, puny, covered in sores, and by no means a *jumbo* in the modern sense. But it was named *Jumbo*, a suitable African name, probably derived from the second element of

Philip

Before the Victor ran elephant-crazy; no connotations of a of clumsiness. After had finished with it had come to mean it is an odd, spongy people have given it to things, from bladders, and from Mat West. But none think of, except it skyjacked a word its meaning.

Philip

## "Would you buy a Rembrandt for its canvas?" I asked.

An acquaintance remarked that, at £1,770, the Royal Oak stainless steel watch by Audemars Piguet was more expensive than most gold watches.

Which was perhaps missing the point.

The value of the Royal Oak is more a

consequence of the way the metal has been used, the design reflecting its strength and character, than the material itself.

In any sphere of artistry and craftsmanship, as I pointed out to my friend, materials alone do not make a masterpiece.

What matters is the way they're used.

And who uses them.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 70 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.



## Turning his art into life

Few more striking people have come my way than Jerzy Kosinski, the Polish-born author of *The Painted Bird*, that horrifying tale of childhood in war-shattered eastern Europe; of *Steps*; of *Being There*, recently made with his own screenplay into what he calls an almost sickeningly successful film, with Peter Sellers in the main role; and now of *Passion Play*, his seventh novel in 15 years, to be published on April 14 by Michael Joseph.

Kosinski's life has been as amazing as any of the stories he has woven from it. War years in the primitive villages of Ruthenia and the Ukraine, when he became mute for six years after a traumatic experience. Student days in the harshest post-war Stalinist era. Escape, with no English, to the USA. Marriage in 1958 to an immensely wealthy young widow, who died of cancer 10 years later. Success, mixed with considerable hostility, through his novels.

After all that, he is only 46, a slight, lithe man who travels light through life, only a slight Polish accent left. "Unlike Conrad, I lost most of my accent but kept my name," he quipped in his room at the Savoy Hotel. He buys little, collects nothing, and when not travel-



Jerzy Kosinski: he remains a nomad.

ling lives in two-room rented flats in New York and the Valais region of Switzerland.

Apart from writing, his passions are skiing and—as with the hero of *Passion Play*—polo: both "equipment-oriented" sports in which, assisted by forces other than one's own, one is propelled into the world as an equal, he says.

Kosinski sees his characters as questers, seeking self-definition in a largely hostile environment. Sexual experience is part of this quest. "To my generation sex was one of the few ways in which the individual could define himself

regardless of external pressures. It is a tragedy of modern literature that it has surrendered the drama of sex to the pornographic dimension."

He believes the world is, like many of his novels, full of nastiness and cruelty (as is the near-mutual, especially gained horses, documented in *Passion Play*). Through his assaults on his readers, he seeks to force them to redefine their place in society and question their own state of comfort while reading.

Successful if controversial, translated into 30 languages, his own answer is to remain a nomad. But many Americans are, he believes, no longer as much at ease in their social, economic and spiritual circumstances as previously. "We could be moving in the direction of my fiction." A pretty frightening thought.

## Scottish exit

After nine years as director of the Scottish Arts Council, Sandy Dunbar has resigned: to become, slightly unexpectedly, a full-time farmer. For nearly 10 years he has tried simultaneously to run the fast-growing arts council and an estate, bequeathed to him by a cousin, on the coastal strip of Moray, near Elgin.

At 51, he thought there was a danger of getting stale in the arts field, and decided to devote himself full time—after a nine-month course in farm management in Edinburgh—to his

fields of barley and beef cattle. "You can't learn all about farming in nine months, but I hope it will teach me the limits of my own ignorance, and prevent me from making the elementary mistakes," he said.

He will maintain his commitment to the arts, and no doubt bring his style and humour to this more bucolic setting.

## Crashing in

Consumers' Association, which claim to have filed more pages of the statute book than any other pressure group this century, has recruited a high flier to increase yet further the pounds-per-square-inch.

Ray Spencer, who becomes the organization's head of communications, started as an industrial correspondent with *The Financial Times*, and has more recently spent 10 years as public affairs manager for the Co-operative Wholesale Society and Co-operative Bank, based in Manchester.

Now he will be concentrating his considerable energies on "heightening public awareness of the variety of Consumers' Association's activities". The publishers of *Which?* not unreasonably suppose they might beget a new ally. Prior to that, he was generally known that they not only test pots and pans, but lobby MPs effectively and carry out social policy research as well.

Spencer started his new job with evasive action of a peculiarly radical kind. His first day

in the office I've week would have coincided with Consumers' Association's first strike, but he was involved in a car crash and was thus spared the embarrassment of making his debut crossing a picket line. He is now happily recovered, and the pickets dispersed.

Fiddle indeed is memory: it was not, as I tentatively surmised on Tuesday, I. A. Richards who said that poetry was simply language charged to the uttermost with meaning; but Ezra Pound, who said: "Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree." Thank you, Roger Lewis of St Andrews University, for putting me right.

## Initial reaction

Can there be another field in which acronyms flourish as rigorously as in development aid? The question is prompted by the recent emergence from the Overseas Development Administration of an ABC of Aid and Development.

Before describing the functions of many of the institutions concerned, it lists some 240 such abbreviations with their full names, ranging from AAA for Arab Aid Agencies (rather than Amateur Architects Association) through ICARDA, for International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, and KETL, for Key English

Language Teaching down to WVC for the Veterinary Service.

But although it TETOC (Technical and Training Organisations Countries), it is not to be confused with TETOCEN (Technical Training Organisation for Eastern Nations). This is a by the ever fecund it service of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), stands for of Know-How through are Nationals, and a scheme—despite its sounds.

The idea, pion Turkey, is that profes have achieved p abroad, should be inv for short technical as in fields ranging f energy to vocational for women. The return ary exiles speak the know the culture, easily located, and o in touch afterwards to all too typically as feed-back of know-how perhaps).

Anyone whose pare on them enough to p them every 12 months first 18 years show David Rostovets of B Television at BBC Broadband, London, W looking for a sequen photographs. The sub preferred he fac camera and not pured by other peopl

Roger Be



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## THE ALLIES' RESPONSE

Mr Carter has now asked his allies to support economic and political measures against Iran. Most of them have a deal of sympathy for him and great respect for his patience. He has shown in the past that he is aware of the need for the allies to show more than a desire to help spread, and none can play with any pleasure respect of Washington increasingly lonely and m. But there are sincere and disagreements over the analysis of the situation in the best way of doing it.

Arguments for sanctions are strong. As President has pointed out, the Government's refusal to supply the hostages is an opportunity which must now be seized. To break diplomatic relations with a country which violates international conventions is in itself logical. To put economic sanctions on a government which is also well within the right to do so is not necessarily a new situation in which the Government must now be responsible. To break diplomatic relations with a country which violates international conventions is in itself logical. To put economic sanctions on a government which is also well within the right to do so is not necessarily a new situation in which the Government must now be responsible.

imposing economic sanctions, especially without instructions from the United Nations Security Council. They are also liable to face significant trading losses if the sanctions are not supported by other developed countries, including especially Japan. They must also think of their own citizens in Iran (there are at least a thousand Iranians, for instance, and hundreds of Germans, French and British) who might be exposed to reprisals.

The problem of effectiveness is still more difficult to calculate. It seems unlikely that the present system of government in Iran can last a long time, but nobody can tell what will follow it. There could be a shift towards the middle class intelligentsia or there could be a further economic decline and disintegration followed by the emergence of either a military dictatorship or a left wing regime that could turn to the Russians for support. Economic pressure may, if it can be made effective, hasten change but it can scarcely control the direction of change. If it were accompanied by an almost complete withdrawal of western representation it would be more likely to turn change in an anti-western direction and make the recovery of western influence more difficult. If this happened the west would have damaged its long term interests in a crucial area for the sake of a probably vain attempt to hasten the release of the hostages.

President Carter and the American public must therefore understand that the debates now unfolding among their allies derive neither from the lack of desire to help nor, as was partly the case after the invasion of Afghanistan, from short-sightedness in the face of a threat to all, but from genuine doubts

about the best way to help. The imperatives of solidarity do not require the allies to give automatic support to all American policies. What they require is automatic help for the United States, which is not the same thing.

There are a number of ways in which the allies can help at this stage. The first is to try to rally opinion in the third world, and especially in Islamic countries, many of which have already indicated that their sympathy for the Iranian revolution stops well short of support for the holding of the hostages. If any outside opinion will influence the Iranian regime at the moment Islamic opinion is more likely to do so than American and European opinion. Secondly, and in parallel, it is time to go back to the United Nations. Thirdly, America's allies can use the diplomatic channels they still have to represent President Carter's genuine desire for a fair solution and a resumption of normal relations and at the same time feed back their own analyses of the Iranian situation.

Last, but far from least, they must demonstrate that they are in fact allies of the United States, which means that they must accede to some of President Carter's requests and not rule out the possibility of acceding to more as time goes by. The list of proposed measures, both economic and diplomatic, can be taken gradually and selectively. Anything less would deepen bitterness in the United States, reduce European influence over American policies, and leave Iran and the world with the very dangerous lesson that diplomatic conventions and American interests can be challenged with impunity.

## GUARDIANS OF THE CURRICULUM

I may not have the once it did in the professional conduct; but that the National Association of Teachers gave on to Mr Mark Carlisle, been invited to address the conference, the day earlier in the day conference that the hip of a teacher with his as comparable to that of with his patient or with his client. The of a minority made the ce look embarrassingly n assembly of mature h could safely be given in in judging how and e children of Britain e taught.

risle spoke of the non-national framework for curricula which he means, sultations, to prepare for dance of teachers and icator authorities. After nsistent motion passed y the conference, it is ee the largest teachers' king any very construc- in those consultations, of the speakers in the howed an uncompromis- of any attempt to with their professional t of the needs of the

children in their care. This is not a position that is tenable either in law or in the light of common sense, and by clinging so inflexibly to their claimed prerogatives, the teachers risk shaking public confidence in their motives.

The tradition here has been to give teachers a much freer hand in determining the method and content of education than is common in many other countries. It was therefore natural, when disquiet gathered in the 1970s about the quality of education in the state schools that much of the blame should be attributed to the teachers themselves. This generated a defensive spirit which can, as in this instance, shade into irrationality. It is true that various political and economic influences have harmfully affected the development of state education, quite apart from the influence of the teachers themselves. But since they have, in practice, such a wide discretion, it is difficult for them to disclaim all blame.

A curricular framework on the lines proposed by the Government offers little threat to the main areas of freedom that teachers cherish. It is far from being authoritarian or centralist;

indeed, it is more likely to strengthen the hand of the local education authorities than of the Department. On the level at which it is drawn, the teachers' fears of political control are quite unwarranted; nor does it introduce any change of principle which would give substance to such fears. Since it is almost without detail, it verges at times uncomfortably close to being a collection of educational clichés.

The number of schools whose practice diverges significantly from its recommendations (except, perhaps, for pupils in the last two years of compulsory education) must be small. But insofar as the proposals would encourage teachers, governors and education authorities to make a concerted effort to assess their priorities in relation to resources, their effect should be helpful, even to the teachers themselves. Such assessments will become increasingly important as declining numbers of secondary pupils make more difficult the provision of a wide range of subjects outside the central core. These decisions should not be made haphazardly, and they cannot properly be made by teachers alone, any more than they can without them.

## GIUM'S LANGUAGE BARRIER

is now plunged into a ical crisis, like so many he result of its language ces. Mr Martens has his government's resig- King Baudouin has it, and a round of con- is will now begin in an to find a solution. To der it is bound to seem unending process that n under way for many hich politicians bicker themselves and the basic he differences between ho speak French and ho speak Dutch, remains ed. But Belgium is not / country which has per- language differences, and h differences elsewhere feed roots. Questions of e, affecting as they do sters as education, deah, are of great personal nce. It is Belgium's mis- that mistrust between / language groups runs

one agrees that a new structure is needed, way with the unitary sy- Belgium has had for so creates a new pattern ions between the three entities, Dutch-speaking

Flanders, French-speaking Walonia and the primarily French-speaking Brussels. As a result of an all-party agreement in 1977, known as the Egmont Pact, it appeared that a solution had been found, a federal system in which each of the three would be given extensive powers, including its own parliament and its own executive. But this arrangement was not liked by many Flemings, who objected to the fact that two of the three regions would be primarily French-speaking, when the Flemings were a majority in the country as a whole. So since 1977 there have been difficulties about putting the agreement into effect, and the latest of them has led to the fall of Mr Martens's government.

Certain Flemish members of Mr Martens's coalition were insisting that Flemings should be given equal representation with French-speakers in Brussels, although they are very much a minority. The French-speaking parties replied that this would only be possible if the same equal parity was given to French-speakers in the suburbs around Brussels; these suburbs are officially Dutch-speaking, but have long been a bone of contention

because of the number of French-speakers in them. But this demand was in its turn unacceptable to the Flemings.

Underlying this manoeuvring is the fact that both communities feel on the defensive. The Flemings are still smarting under the indignities of the past, when French was the only official language throughout the country; since they are usually prepared to learn French, while the French-speakers are rarely prepared to learn Dutch, they feel that their language is not fully accepted. The French-speakers, on the other hand, see the greater wealth of Flanders and its bigger population, and feel that they are being taken over, particularly in Brussels. On both sides there are extremists who talk of total separation, and there are occasional outbreaks of violence, as there was in the eastern part of the country last month. So far the traditional *bon sens belge* has prevented the tensions from getting out of hand, or from disrupting Belgium's relations with the world around it. But it might be thought that this same good sense might at last work out a solution that would, with a little give and take, be generally acceptable.

## h and State

Reverend John Pearce (April 10) in his sermon on the role of the Church in the world, said that the Church was not an "evangelical" church, but a "catholic" church. Let it be said loudly and clearly that a great many members of the Church do believe in the value of an association of Church and State, and are committed to preserving this principle. There may be various ways in which this link can be maintained, but it is not by means of a "catholic" church, which is not an "evangelical" church. To a nation to the ravages of the war, neither advances the nor demonstrates Christian love.

There are many of us who thank God for the example of our Queen in her devotion to our Lord, for the role of Parliament in saving us from the worst excesses of ecclesiasticism and for the maintenance of biblical insights through clerical subscription to the Articles and Prayer Book.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PEARCE,  
All Souls' Vicarage,  
Overbury Street, E5.

## Southend East by-election

From Miss Enid Lakeman  
Sir, Mr Paveley is doubtless right in saying (April 2) that Teddy Taylor was not "foisted upon" those who selected him as the Conservative candidate in the by-election. But the 12 members of the selection com-

mittee and even the larger numbers in the other committees involved are a very small fraction of the 22,413 people who voted Conservative in that constituency last May, to say nothing of the whole 57,000 whom the MP is supposed to represent. They may well have felt that they were having a stranger foisted upon them and that may very well have been a reason why nearly half of them stayed at home.

This is not the fault of the Southend East Conservative Association—except in so far as it supports an electoral system which allows the voters no possibility of choosing the person they want to represent them. Yours faithfully,  
ENID LAKEMAN,  
The Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain and Ireland,  
6 Chancery Street,  
Southwark, SE1.

## The response to Soviet expansion

From Professor Louis Halle

Sir, One may plausibly speculate that, on the historical record, the Atlantic community will be found to have been disastrously short-sighted in its sluggish response to Russia's conquest of Afghanistan, now under way. This prompts the following attempt to place the event in historical perspective.

For over a thousand years, since the defeat of the Kievan state in the ninth century, Russia has been expanding, despite temporary setbacks, until it has at last become the immense empire that is still expanding today. It would be wrong to attribute this expansion to evil motives. On the contrary, it has been a defensive expansion based on the insecurity of a nation surrounded by enemies and lacking such natural geographical defences as are provided by coastlines or mountain ranges. Invaded from one side or another for a thousand years, suffering massacre and devastation in almost every generation, the nation has had no other recourse than to push the hostile and encircling foreigners ever farther back. So the empire has grown, and so the Russian state has come to regard the outside world as made up of deadly enemies who must be kept at bay by the military force as the state can generate. It is not too much to say that the outlook of the Russian state, after a millennium of such bitter experience, has become paranoid. This is not something the rest of the world can change by its own behaviour except over historical time.

Russia's defensive expansion has, in modern times, become an increasing threat to its neighbours and, at last, to the world at large. This became clear in the conclusion of the Second World War when the expansion was abruptly carried three-quarters of the way toward the English Channel from the former Russian frontier. The alarm this caused prompted the formation of the present North Atlantic coalition to contain "Russian" expansionist tendencies—as Mr George Kennan put it in his original formulation of the containment policy. This is to say that it was in response to a balance-of-power crisis that the containment policy was adopted and the coalition formed. In like fashion, similar coalitions carrying out similar policies have arisen to contain the "expansive tendencies" of first Napoleon's France and then Hitler's Germany, the purpose being to restore the balance of power and the associated stability on which peace and security depend.

With the resolution of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, containment appeared to have been achieved. A new balance and a new stability became manifest. This was the significance of the word "détente", a word and a concept that has come to fascinate us all.

However, once achieved, containment must be kept up by keeping up the strength of the containing powers. In his famous "long telegram" from the American Embassy in Moscow to Washington of February 22, 1946, setting forth the circumstances on which containment was to be based, Kennan wrote:

"Impervious to logic of reason... (the Soviet Power) is highly sensitive to the logic of force". The logic of force was the basis on which containment and détente alike were achieved. Its converse is that nothing is more dangerous than to confront "the Soviet Power" with weakness.

Unfortunately, for a decade the Atlantic societies have been showing increasing weakness in their internal constitutions and external relations alike. I refer to the failures to overcome economic malfunctioning, to the disaffection of the younger generation and its consequent unwillingness to make sacrifices for the health and security of the national societies to which its members respectively belong. I refer to the growing dependence on sources of energy beyond national control. And, without expressing an opinion on the intrinsic worth of the Salt II agreement, I refer to premises and procedures in terms of which the United States negotiated that Moscow must have interpreted as manifestations of weakness.

It was in these circumstances that one of the bastions of containment, the Shah's Iran, collapsed, leaving an open breach in the containing wall. At the same time, because of its petroleum production, became the most sensitive sector for the societies of the North Atlantic and Japan, among others. Surely the invasion of Afghanistan would not otherwise have occurred. As it is, Russia, having prepared the way by the expansion of its naval power, is now advancing by sheer military force toward the vital area of the Gulf of Oman. And so the balance, the stability that had been achieved by 1963, is again being upset.

One does not have to be alarmed to see that Washington's attempt to rally the rest of the world, when the Russian invasion began, was justified. What this observer had not expected was the failure of so much of the world to respond. Not only Karachi, but even Bonn appeared to be afraid of provoking Russia. Both Bonn and Paris seemed to assume that weakness rather than strength was what would save the cherished détente. It is hard to reconcile this with the wisdom one had attributed to the statesmen involved.

The historic weakness of defensive coalitions has been that they do not form or bestir themselves until too late to avoid major disaster. See how long it took the coalition against Napoleon to form and become effective. Few now doubt that a determined attitude by France and Britain in 1938, when Hitler invaded the Rhineland, would have stopped him and averted World War II. But what was done was always too little too late. Must we wait for another 1939 before the resolution of the Atlantic coalition, and the other countries sharing the common interest, comes to the sticking point?

I submit that civilization could not survive another 1939 and its aftermath. Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS J. HALLE,  
Place de la Taconnerie 1,  
CH-1204 Genève,  
Switzerland.  
April 7.

## Threat from nuclear arms

From Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir William Dickson

Sir, I thank Lord Brockway and his co-Chairmen for their reply (April 2) to my letter (March 31). They set out clearly and fairly what the disarmament objectives of the UN General Assembly and of all responsible governments. They also point out, what the prominent advertisement in *The Times* of March 28 had already made clear, that the appeal and the convention to be held on April 12 in London are sponsored by the "World Disarmament Campaign".

What their letter does not mention, and which the advertisement does, is that the appeal is sponsored by the British nuclear campaign against the British nuclear deterrent and against Nato deterrent policies. So one cannot support one without supporting the other.

It is good that all responsible governments should be invited to consider what steps they might initiate towards the objectives of the UN Assembly. But all people of sound judgement know that there is no prospect of any progress towards a disarmament scheme without the full participation and genuine cooperation of the Soviet bloc.

## A matter of dignity

From Mr J. F. Dore

Sir, I trust that Mr Fletcher's letter (April 3) will prompt members of Parliament on the government benches to look more closely at the Chancellor's proposals to cut the increase in invalidity benefit by 5 per cent and make it subject to tax from 1982.

Invalidity benefit is, in general, payable to people who are incurably ill or permanently disabled, after they have exhausted their entitlement to sickness benefit. Mr Reg Prendergast, when interviewed on the BBC programme for the disabled, *Does he take Sugar?*, said he thought it was unjustifiable for a taxpayer, part of whose income consisted of invalidity benefit, to pay less tax than another with the same amount of income but wholly derived from taxable sources. May I suggest that this view is at least open to question?

A taxpayer who is incurably ill or permanently disabled has to pay to have things done for him which his fit and able-bodied counterpart would normally do for himself. When his home needs redecoration, or a minor repair is necessary, he must employ and pay someone to do the work; the benefits of doing-it-yourself are not for him. Furthermore, he may have to pay for a premature because of ill health suffers a permanent and often substantial reduction in his occupational pension if he is fortunate enough to be entitled to one.

Under the existing rules, the tax-free invalidity pension may continue to be drawn in lieu of the taxable

retirement pension until age 70. I can think of no more reasonable reason for this and feel it must have arisen from the deliberate decision of a compassionate government having regard to the fact that a fit and able-bodied person may earn a quite substantial amount without affecting his retirement pension, an option not open to the sick or disabled. It would be a pity if the present Government were to act with less generosity, especially at a time when revenue from North Sea oil is likely to have reached, so I understand, some £15,000m a year.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DARE,  
Gables East,  
Sellingdale,  
Chesham,  
Kent.  
April 4.

## Tobacco advertising

From Mrs E. M. Shepherd

Sir, Since non-smokers now outnumber smokers by two to one (survey reported in *The Times* (April 8), page 4), surely it would be reasonable for the Government to have tobacco removed from the list upon which the retail price index is based.

There would be no problem about raising excise duty in order to discourage consumption, as your leading article suggests. Yours faithfully,  
E. M. SHEPHERD,  
30 Bawnmore Road,  
Rugby.  
April 8.

## Bristol rioters: a sense of alienation

From Mr Arthur Palmer, MP for Bristol, North-east (Labour and Co-operative)

Sir, Mr Fred Emery in your issue of April 5 is right to say that Ministers are foolish to pretend that the race had nothing to do with the Bristol disturbances, or equally, it is the case that the rioters had whites among their number. Also the defenders of property, threatened by arson and theft in the hours when police protection was regrettably withdrawn, were both black and white. I was in the city early on the Thursday morning and had this information from those who had been there in the critical hours.

The fact is that the trouble originated in a narrow enclave of streets which have grown up in a sense of alienation not simply from the general community but, more seriously, from the dedicated official and voluntary organizations for good race relations, supported by ethnic groups as such. In the enclave it must be frankly admitted, flourish petty crime, prostitution, drug trafficking and minor gangsterism. Homeless and rootless young blacks, and not a few whites in similar condition, are drawn there, for where else can they go?

Bristol can claim a fine record of housing achievement for families, the elderly and single women, but the very success of this drive has reduced lodging space for the man on his own. Life in the enclave may be deprived by most middle class and working class standards, but it is more vivid than working in the kitchens of hotels or restaurants or doing the other dull jobs that nobody else wants to do. And there is always the comradeship and group solidarity that comes from challenging the most obvious and, to the enclave dwellers, repressive representatives of the establishment—the police.

On the fatal day the situation developed beyond challenge and became something near insurrection—a defence of territory and a separate way of life.

Neither economics nor good works alone will help us to understand and remedy an affair of this kind. However a speedy and open public inquiry might bring to the surface facts that accepted modes of political and social thinking keep buried. Time is running short.

Yours sincerely,  
ARTHUR PALMER,  
House of Commons.

From Mrs Louise Nandy  
Sir, One of the most disheartening features of the aftermath of the Bristol riots has been the inability

## Swiss Olympic decision

From Professor Ralf Dahrendorf

Sir, On April 3 you reported that the Swiss National Olympic Committee has rebuked the Swiss Equestrian Federation for the statement which its executive made about participation in the Moscow Olympics. You did not report this statement itself. Since it is the most remarkable, dignified, and cogent argument which I for one have seen from sportsmen anywhere, you may find it possible to print this translation of the letter sent by the Swiss Equestrian Federation on March 31:

The Federation has concluded with an overwhelming majority not to send any Swiss competitors to Moscow, for the following reasons: 1. In the long run, the exercise of any sport is put in doubt if human rights and personal liberties are not guaranteed. Despite its signature to the Declaration of Helsinki, the USSR does not provide such a guarantee, as the case of Sakharov—representative for others—demonstrates.

2. Certainly, sport links peoples. The only question is whether we want to be linked with people however sympathetic its individual sportsmen may be—who attack and subject other peoples who also belong to the Olympic movement.

3. Time and again it is said that sport and politics are inseparable. We agree with this in principle, but only in so far as politics does not endanger our rights as citizens of a free country. In a free democracy, all of us are "politicians" for our representatives are after all elected by us. They are our representatives. Since responsibility for the affairs of sport does not rest with our politicians, it is for us to take the decision. In this connection we state that the International Olympic Committee has taken political decisions in the past, for example in the cases of Taiwan and South Africa, which robs its thesis of the separation of sports and politics of credibility.

4. Certainly, the making of our equestrian competitors would like to participate in the Olympic Games, since they have prepared for them for 31 years intensively and with great sacrifices. But we have found that they would not enjoy their participation. When however sport

of commentators to understand the difference between poverty and racism.

Racism, whether it hits blacks in Bristol, Irish in Liverpool, or Roman Catholics in Belfast, means being treated as an alien, a non-citizen, a suspect person, otherwise of no account. The most obvious manifestations of this in Britain today are the arrest on "sus" of numerous young blacks, and the degrading treatment of brown immigrants and black and brown visitors to this country. Political memory is short, but you only have to be over 30 to know what it is like to be thrown out of restaurants, pubs, even hairdressers, because of the colour of your skin or that of your friends.

Poverty, as all the commentators keep reminding us, is not the prerogative of non-whites. Using poverty and unemployment to explain the dehumanization of black people is therefore to provide easy ammunition for those who want to dismiss this kind of frustration as the moans of people looking for excuses for personal failure (Why should they complain? there are others in the same boat?).

Poverty certainly makes life very hard indeed. But racism makes it intolerable, for no personal effort can place one above it. More affluent targets of racial abuse seldom riot: they have some stake in law and order. The young blacks of Bristol have nothing to lose. When poverty and racism meet there are no brakes.

Yours faithfully,  
LOUISE NANDY,  
38 Mauldeth Road,  
Manchester,  
April 5.

From Professor P. A. Lindsay  
Sir, Surely it is quite wrong to blame the police for what has happened in Bristol. When we have new barbarians (of any colour) living in our midst this is precisely what we should expect. I hope that supporters of the permissive society are proud of their achievement.

As a university teacher I am deeply concerned about this whole trend, but we must recognize that neither unemployment nor any other social problem could ever entitle people to break the law.

Yours faithfully,  
P. A. LINDSAY,  
University of London,  
King's College,  
Strand, WC2.  
April 7.

## Check on the post

From Mr A. R. P. Fairlie

Sir, You report Sir William Barlow (April 2) as rescuing the report of the Monopolies Commission by stating "Men carrying heavy responsibility in a complex and difficult situation have become somewhat weary of the succession of reports and criticism either by government bodies or by pressure groups who do not have to live and work with the difficulties".

To which I must reply that users of the postal service are also weary of the same succession of reports and criticism, each saying the same things, and each unacted upon. Added to which, it is an important part of the Chairman of the Post Office to complain that "pressure groups" (ie those of his customers who are obliged to take concerted action, since singly they are powerless) "do not have to live and work with the difficulties". I can assure Sir William that every one of my members had difficulties in plenty to live and work with when the Post Office last summer unilaterally suspended service over wide areas.

I agree with Sir William that some real progress has been and is being made. However, it would become him better if he would accept the fully justified criticisms of past performance made in the Monopolies Commission report and bend his attention to the future. Then, perhaps, further critical reports will not be necessary.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. P. FAIRLIE, Chairman,  
Trade Users Association Ltd,  
Tress House, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 60



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CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

## Charm and wit of the Classics

From Philip Howard

In his presidential address to the meeting of the Classical Association in 1976, Lord Wolfenden examined the effect that an old-fashioned classical education had on him. As you could have expected, it was urbane, witty, funny, and, like Wolfenden, a scholarly occasion, as charming as a walk to the pinnacles with Socrates, leaving out the anecdotes (which is a pity). Lord Wolfenden put as the first effect an unswerving search for precision. The rigid grammar of Latin and the inexhaustible vocabulary of Greek enabled Romans and Greeks to say precisely what they meant, without ambiguity, unless they meant to be ambiguous.

The second effect was the ancient demand for a rational unified explanation of the multiplicity of things in space and time. For Everyman who has ever come across

the ideas in his or her youth, they simply will not go away as years go by. Order in the universe, the inexorable connexion between cause and effect, one's responsibility for the consequences of one's actions, become part of one's mental and spiritual blood and bone. We have other influences from other religions, but the Hellenic element is indelible: the endless questioning, searching, exploration to discover the nature of this cosmos in the cosmos, this order in the universe.

The third lesson of a classical education, according to Lord Wolfenden, is the notion of a proper balance between parts thereby producing a harmonious whole. He surmised that the ancient Greeks were as excited and valuable as the Greeks of today. That was why they valued moderation so highly.

There is something to be said for trying to be balanced in one's

judgments and then pursuing the conclusion with total commitment. Of course, that may result in total disaster. But there is a time for burning boats. If a balanced and effective one's responsibilities, then that is the right course.

If moderation means mediocrity or safety first or yes-and-no, we are better without it. Lord Wolfenden declared that if he were starting life again he would choose a rigorous upbringing in the classics, and then probably have the same sort of many-sided career rather than be enticed into the enchanted islands of pure scholarship.

One day, I suppose, a president of the Classical Association that will have to be somebody like the late Mr. P. B. S. White and of Mrs. Andrew White, Croix de Guerre '39/45, of Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr S. J. Mabey and Miss C. A. Crossman The engagement is announced between Simon John, son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Mabey, of Hillcroft, Barford St. Martin, Wiltshire, and Mrs J. Vining, of Fitz Farm, Tetford, Wiltshire.

Mr Z. Tasoglou and Miss S. A. Fugle The marriage took place in Corfu, Greece, on Easter Monday, April 7, 1980, between Mr Zikos Tasoglou, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Tasoglou, of Siligades, Prespes, Greece, and Miss S. Fugle, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Fugle of Bath, Avon.

Awards, confers degrees on honorary graduates at City Hall, Cardiff.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips attend tennis match in aid of Princess Anne's charities.

20. The Queen opens the Lancashire Conjunction. Use Water Schenck visits Duchy of Lancaster estates.

The Prince of Wales opens Penryn Comprehensive School, Truro.

Princess Anne visits the Royal Naval School for its centenary.

Princess Anne attends a service to commemorate the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Princess Anne visits Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

21. The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, visits Duchy property in Cornwall at 2.45.

Princess Anne, patron of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, attends a national council meeting at the Albert Hall, London.

22. The Prince of Wales attends the annual dinner of the Salix and Sincera Club of London at the Savoy Hotel, London, at 7.45.

23. The Prince of Wales visits the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manzanillo, and the Submarine Red Complex, HM Dockyard, Devonport, at 10.30.

24. The Prince of Wales attends an English heritage concert given by the English Chamber Orchestra at St George's Chapel, Windsor, at 7.30.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Australia until May 26. The Queen will officially open the new High Court Building in Canberra, West Sussex, at noon.

The Duke will also make one-day visits to Sydney and Melbourne.

25. Princess Anne visits Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

26. The Prince of Wales, as president, attends the annual general meeting of the Whitford Trust at Arundel, West Sussex, at noon.

27. The Prince of Wales, as president, visits Prince's Trust projects in the West Midlands: visits Queen's College, Birmingham, for its centenary.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. C. Blair and Miss A. C. S. Robertson

The engagement is announced between James, son of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles and Lady Blair of Greenlaw, Berwickshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Major Donald Robertson, of Winkfield, Berkshire, and Mrs. Harriet Robertson, of Winkfield, Berkshire.

Mr J. H. Brown and Miss S. F. Davies

The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. T. L. Brown, of Fallowfield, Hampshire, and Cynthia, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Poole, of Littleton, Lancashire.

Mr M. Dennis and Miss C. E. Poole

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. S. Poole, of Waterlooville, Hampshire, and Cynthia, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Poole, of Littleton, Lancashire.

Mr R. W. Page and Miss S. A. Whittingham

The engagement is announced between Richard William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. S. Page, of Kintford, Cheshire, and Sheelagh, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Whittingham, of Wilmshurst, Cheshire.

Mr M. M. Bradford and Miss F. A. White

The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Bradford, of Leigh Woods, Bristol, and Frances, daughter of the late Mr P. B. White and of Mrs Andrew White, Croix de Guerre '39/45, of Lymington, Hampshire.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

a Ex dividend, a Ex all, b Forecast dividend price, c Interim payment passed, f Prize at all Dividend and yield exclude a special payment company, h Pre-merger figures, i Forecast on capital distribution, r Ex rights, s Exempt or Tax free, z Price adjusted for late deals significant data.

Treasury's  
th Sea  
rithmetic,  
21

ock markets  
Ind 431.3, up 4.6  
Gilt 65.48, up 0.51  
aring  
380, up 128 pm  
ex 72.1, down 0.7  
llar  
ex 89.8, down 2.0  
id  
'5, up 58  
ney  
sterling 18-18½  
Euro \$ 184-194  
Euro \$ 184-184

## st House e pulls of bid Dobbs

House Forte, the catering group, yesterday said it was ahead with the takeover of Dobbs in airline catering of Squibb, the health and confectionery group. Squibb has now moved to Carsons, another American.

Squibb differed on Dobbs House was the no figure has led it is generally has THF offered in (£38.8m), apparently its American Eric Hartwell, chief of THF, said the still interested in the United States is prepared to make judgment.

ial Editor page 21

takeover  
Engineering Industries four-fifths of Power Machines of Dallas, Texas in 1978-79 IFM had its of \$2.7m.

ite placement  
always has raised the private for a 12-year floating rate.

US visit  
Joseph, Secretary of the EEC, is to visit the end of May. The EEC is to visit the end of May. The EEC is to visit the end of May.

ue steady  
edit extended by 3 finance houses in 1979, almost the January. A drop in of credit extended was almost matched a credit. Increase finance houses.

eficit drops  
budget deficit fell to its (£550m) in the months of this year in francs (£1,787m) 1979 period.

et up 10.9  
Jones industrial used at 785.92, up all Street yesterday.

## PRICE CHANGES

1p to 5p	Imp Cont Gas	10p to 710p
12p to 376p	Pearl	14p to 304p
10p to 643p	Rapid Mines F	20p to 243p
4p to 59p	Tricentrol	12p to 286p
5p to 66p	W. Rand Cons	25c to 66c

10p to 241p	Get Universal	5p to 385p
5p to 48p	Guthrie Corp	12p to 875p
4p to 476p	Massey-Ferg	15p to 365p
8p to 73p	Middle Wits	10p to 370p
10p to 220p	Wade Potteries	3p to 59p

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	buys	buys	buys
2.08	2.01	11.57	11.07
30.75	29.80	112.50	108.50
72.25	68.75	158.50	151.50
2.63	2.55	9.90	9.50
13.28	12.73	4.13	3.91
8.70	8.30	2.24	2.18
9.83	9.43	52.50	49.50
4.38	4.11		
91.00	87.00		
11.27	10.85		
1.14	1.10		
1990.00	1895.00		
585.00	560.00		
Gld 4.70	4.47		

## Central banks intervene heavily as selling of dollars continues

By David Blake  
Economics Editor

The dollar sold again in the foreign exchange markets yesterday, recording sharp losses against all major currencies.

Sterling gained less ground than other European currencies, some of which recorded spectacular rises. The pound gained 1.28 cents to close at \$2.1780. Sterling's effective exchange rate closed down 0.7 percentage points at 72.1 per cent of its 1971 value.

Unlike Tuesday, dealing in the foreign exchange markets yesterday was heavy, with big selling orders reported, especially in early trading. There seems to have been substantial intervention by some central banks, most notably the West German Federal Bank, which was reported to have bought up to \$200m to slow down the dollar's decline.

In spite of this activity, the Deutsche mark advanced strongly against the dollar, with a gain of more than five pfennigs at the end of the day. At one stage it looked as if it could gain sharply on the back of the dollar's advance, but at the close of business it was only \$8 up at \$547.50.

The big gainers in yesterday's currency turmoil seem to have been the traditionally strong currencies, which have been doing badly in recent weeks.

The Swiss franc rose by six centimes to close at 178.75 Swiss francs to the dollar, an even sharper gain than that recorded by the Deutsche mark. Even the yen, which has been weak recently, managed to advance.

Most of the dollar's weakness seems to have started in overnight trading in New York. The prime source of the selling of the American currency seems to have been large corporations, which in recent weeks have been selling Deutsche marks short and buying the dollar long.

The setback suffered by the dollar has reminded them of the risks of such a policy and they

hurried to unwind their positions. There seems to have been little sign of any direct action by the Iranians to attack the dollar, nor were there concrete signs of a switch out of dollars into European currencies by the Arab oil producers. But the continuing row over the Iranian hostages cast a pall over the American currency, reinforced by a weakening of Eurodollar interest rates.

No one in the foreign exchange markets has any idea of what will happen next to the dollar. This is reflected in the unusually wide spreads between buying and selling prices being quoted in trading.

But the next key event for the currency markets will occur today when the West German Federal Bank's central council meets in Frankfurt. Its decisions, or a lack of them, on interest rate changes will be followed with great attention in the market.

The meeting of the central council, the bank's top decision-making body, has been arranged at short notice, Peter Norman writes from Brussels.

It was apparently arranged last week when both the bank and the finance ministry in Bonn were growing increasingly alarmed at the scale of currency outflows from West Germany.

Observers in both Frankfurt and Bonn were suggesting that the strong recovery by the dollar on the foreign exchange markets could incite the council to take any credit policy decision.

However, although the pressure against the mark may have eased, there will still be plenty to discuss as the flight of funds from West Germany has created real problems for the country's banking system.

This has been suffering from an acute shortage of liquidity because corporations in particular have been shipping funds abroad to profit from the higher interest rates paid on such Euro-Dollars and Eurodollars.

## Oilmen pay off another \$22m of silver debts

From Anthony Hilton  
New York, April 9

Mr Nelson Hunt and Mr Howard Hunt, the Texas oil billionaires, have repaid a further \$22m (£10.3m) which they owed to Bache, the stock brokers, as a result of the recent crash in the silver market.

This leaves less than \$10m of the original \$100m debt outstanding, and the company expects to have this settled by the end of the month.

However, the Hunt brothers have still to settle other claims. Mr James Dewart, chief executive of brokers Paine Webber, said this week that the Hunts owe his firm \$8.6m.

Mr Ivan Irwin, the Hunts' family lawyer, speaking from Dallas, said the Hunts had already paid off 60 per cent of their debts before the Bache payment.

Mr Irwin revealed that the Hunts had been selling large amounts of sterling to raise cash, though he declined to say how much. They also sold United States Treasury securities and commodity futures.

He shed new light on the recent deal with Englehard Minerals—through which the Hunts extracted themselves from a contract to buy \$665m of silver at \$35 an ounce.

Earlier reports said Englehard had taken over all the brothers' oil exploration interests near the Beaufort Sea, which analysts value at between \$500m and \$700m, but according to Mr Irwin, Englehard has simply been given a 20 per cent stake in the drilling rights over the 3.5 million acres.

However, the Hunts and Bache could have other problems. A former client, Bache, claims he lost \$500,000 in the silver market by acting on their advice and is filing a \$1.5 million damages suit against the firm and the Hunts, claiming that they manipulated the market.

A separate case a New York jeweller has filed a class action alleging that the Hunts conspired to drive up the silver price. The suit claims the Hunts should pay damages to all users of the metal who bought at the "artificially high prices".

## Bank of England again postpones recall of £500m from clearers

By Roman Eisenstein  
Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England has postponed for the second time the recall of £500m from the clearing banks in an effort to reduce pressure on interest rates.

The facility was first granted last February as part of a sale and repurchase agreement of gilts owned by the banks and it is now due for repayment on May 19.

Without the postponement interest rates would have almost certainly risen later this week because of acute shortages in the money markets. The payment on Friday of £360m due from the sale of the last long tap stock, 14 per cent Treasury 1996, would have pushed interest rates to new highs.

The pressure on rates and the authorities' efforts to prevent them from rising to unacceptably high levels arise from less immediate factors. The large inflow of funds to the public sector in the first quarter of the year has to a large extent crowded out the private sector.

Advance payments to the British National Oil Corporation are thought to amount to about £600m. The Government has also brought forward by two months payments of £700m for petroleum revenue tax and authorities have been active in the sale of gilts.

The significant impact of the tax gathering season should be added; this year it has lasted longer and payments have been larger than expected.

Last year's telephone accounts and customs and excise strikes have resulted in larger than usual payments to the exchequer now. It also seems that delayed VAT payments have been coming in faster than is usual in the first quarter.

At the same time the demand for money

from the corporate sector has been strong. This seems to be partly caused by stock building and partly by the need of some companies to bolster ailing finances.

The banks have been hemmed in by the corset regulations and have found it difficult to satisfy the buoyant corporate demand. To ease the situation, the Bank of England not only introduced the arrangement on the sale and repurchase of gilts but also released the special deposits of the banking system which amounted to about £1,000m. The recall of these deposits, which amount to 2 per cent of the banks' eligible liabilities, has also been postponed.

There are now some signs that demand from the private sector is beginning to taper off. It has already fallen in the personal sector, and with the public sector moving into deficit later this year, interest rates could start coming down.

## Steel managers urge halt to BSC's plans

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

The British Steel Corporation's managers will today urge the Government to halt the BSC's retrenchment programme in favour of an alternative that is in direct conflict with the corporation's plan.

Representatives of the Steel Industry Management Association will tell Mr Adam Butler, Minister for Industry, of an alternative business strategy to curtailing one in three jobs and reducing capacity from 21.6 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes, with about 3 million tonnes in reserve.

Mr Robert Muir, the association's general secretary, said yesterday: "We are asking the Government, as the BSC's banker, to engage in a new style of tripartite agreement by the corporation, Government and the trade unions, whereby Government would take one step back initially and only further steps back upon delivery of milestones in each successive period."

The association's leaders will tell Mr Butler that they believe that BSC can move into profitability if steelmaking capacity is maintained at about 17 million tonnes. If agreement was reached by the three interested parties,



Mr Robert Muir: will hear alternative strategy.

'milestones' of improvement in specified performance should be set over a fixed period of months and geared to the local productivity deals now being negotiated by the BSC. Further 'milestones' could be established in the light of improvements.

The association is opposed to the abandonment of saleable steel production worth an estimated £245m and it will ask Mr Butler to agree to an examination of such non-profitable market served by the BSC.

## Pressure on industry to restore price margins

By Our Economics Editor

The surge in the cost of raw materials to industry showed some signs of slackening in March, but an increase of 1.25 per cent in the factory gate prices charged to wholesalers points to continuing strong inflationary pressures.

Industry will have to increase its prices sharply to restore some of the margins that have been eroded in recent months by the increase in its input costs.

The Department of Industry reported yesterday that the index for fuel and raw materials used by manufacturing industry rose by 1 per cent in March to reach 199.4, compared with 100 in February 1975.

The rise was smaller than in February when it brought the annual increase down slightly from 29 per cent to 28 per cent. But most of that increase has occurred in the past six months and has still not been passed on to industry's higher output prices. In the six months to March index prices rose by 15 per cent compared with an 8.75 per cent increase in the price that industry charged for its goods.

About two thirds of the rise in input prices is accounted for by the sharp increase in oil prices recorded over the past year. Industry has not been able to pass this on in full, so profit margins have been eroded.

The reasons for this are probably a combination of weak domestic markets, the impact of foreign competition. The high exchange rate for sterling has protected the United Kingdom from some of the effects of higher world prices for oil and other raw materials. But it has meant that British companies have found difficulty charging more for their goods to cover increased costs.

In the coming months things may become easier. There are signs that commodity prices in the world are starting to ease: the recent crash in the silver market is probably part of a much broader decline in world metals prices.

But it will be some time before this slowing down in input prices leads to a slackening in output prices. These are likely to go on accelerating for some months, putting upward pressure on retail prices.

However, the retail price index itself is likely to record a sharp drop in the Summer as the impact of last year's increase in value added tax drops out of the figures.

Table, page 20

## BP plans five year investment of £7,500m

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum is planning to spend between £1,500m and £1,600m a year for the next five years on building up its business, with most of the money going to energy-related activities.

The annual capital expenditure will be split, with the largest single component of roughly £800m being spent on oil exploration and production, half of that in the North Sea. Oil trading will receive about £400m, chemicals £150m and coal £100m, with the balance going to the group's other interests such as nutrition.

Total investment will be more than £7,500m over five years. Sir David Steel, BP chairman, said yesterday that the current cost return on assets in 1979 of 9.7 per cent was good, but

that it was essential to obtain a return of that magnitude to make the size of investment which the group planned.

It was unfortunate, he said, that petroleum revenue tax (PRT), which was raised to 70 per cent in the Budget, had been allowed for in the group's plan. BP, which paid £497.6m in PRT payments last year compared with £176.6m the year before, would be paying two-thirds of the offshore oil industry's total liability during 1980.

On the prolific Forties field, a third of whose reserves had now been exhausted, the rate of government take would rise from 83 per cent to 87.4 per cent. During 1979, BP had paid more than £700m in tax and royalties to the Government and had made provision to pay more than £1,000m.

"For the benefits of the North Sea to be fully realized and prolonged into the 1990s, the Government must provide the access to exploration licences and the fiscal stability on which continued industry activity depends", Sir David told shareholders in his annual report.

During last year, BP had changed from being a seller of crude oil to other refiners to being a company which had to buy in the market a large part of the crude oil it required to supply products to its customers. Sir David said this change had taken place in the most chaotic conditions. BP had lost supplies from Iran, Nigeria and Kuwait, but production from the North Sea had averaged 500,000 barrels a day and Sohio, the American subsidiary, had produced more than 600,000 barrels a day in the latter part of the year.

The group intends to go ahead in June with floating out its converted semi-submersible rig for the Buchan field, though it is of a similar design to the Alexander Kielland which recently overturned in Norwegian waters.

Dr Jack Birks, a BP main board director, said that the industry considered the design one of the most stable produced, but that Lloyd's—the certifying authority—an independent consultancy, and BP's own engineers were all examining whether any changes were needed. Development of the Buchan field has been held up as a result of delays on the conversion of the rig.

Financial Editor, page 21

## Wide changes proposed on company name registration

By Philip Robinson

Sweeping changes in the rules governing company names were unveiled yesterday by the Department of Trade as part of the Government's plan to cut civil service staff.

Article 160 of the 1120 jobs in Companies' House and business registration will go, saving about £1m—10 per cent of the department's running costs—if proposals in a consultative document on company names registration and business names are largely accepted.

These include the abolition of the 64-year-old loss-making Register of Business Names, the need for every company to carry "limited" in its name, alternative arrangements for storing original documents at

Companies House, and the scrapping of the rule that companies must print directors' names on letterheads.

The Register of Business Names shows the name and address of the ultimate owner of a business. At the last count it contained about 2.5 million entries. It was set up during the First World War when it was feared Germans could be running British shops.

Instead the Register of Companies will issue a list of names which would be banned as obscene, offensive or illegal. It would be up to individual companies to check with Companies House for duplication of names.

No changes are proposed in the way any individual can research a company's records.

## US budgeting error will add \$1,500m to public spending

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, April 9

Washington, April 9—The United States government's budget calculations that will add at least \$1,500m (£688m) to public spending.

The error could involve a still bigger sum and it is being blamed by the Office of Management and Budget entirely on the Department of Labour. "Labour is at fault and we might try and offset the damage by reducing some Labour Department programmes", a White House official said.

The department failed to calculate the expenses involved in compensating United States car workers who had lost their jobs

as a result of increases in car imports.

Workers who lose their jobs because of imports are entitled to government compensation and in January, when the budget was first announced, the Labour Department estimated that such payments would total \$381m for the current year and \$414m for the next fiscal year. Car imports have surged since early this year.

Now the Labour Department estimates that increased compensation above the January stated levels will total \$1,100m for this year, taking the overall 1980 deficit to \$37,600m and \$400m in fiscal 1981, and taking the Administration's latest surplus estimate down to \$16,100m.

## New technology helps companies to clean up in £200m-a-year market

## Laundries home and dry with the microchip

Pessimists who thought the laundry business would surely die with the advent of the modern domestic washing machine have been proved wrong.

New technology and automation are helping laundry companies to exploit a different market already reckoned to be worth £200m a year.

Many companies have deployed their resources into the business of renting and supplying work garments. These are laundered and delivered once a week as part of a cleaning contract.

Spring Grove, a company in Chesham, Gwent, has one such modern laundry which, with its microprocessor, is able to clean and finish 14,000 garments a week. It follows an investment in computers, wiring and programming of £55,000.

Spring Grove believes it can compete effectively with the market leaders, among them Initial, Advance and Sketchley. Microcomputers process the garments entering the laundry. Each item is coded on to a computer identifying the type of clothing, the customer, the material from which the garment is made and the cleaning process through which it will be taken.

Garments are then passed through a pneumatic chute monitored by a photocell. Depending on the process to be followed by the garment, the computer directs it into one of eight bags capable of holding up to 100lbs of laundry.

The photocell is the controlling mechanism which, in "consultation" with the two resident microcomputers decides whether a bag is nearly full.

Another fully automated control circuit on an overhead rail carries the bags to the cleaning machines where 200 gallons of cleaning agent fill each machine to clean 200lbs of laundry.

Microcomputers take over once more after the garments have been cleaned and carry them on hangers along a conveyor belt through the finishing stages.

They are finally sorted into van delivery journeys and customers at a rate of 900 per hour.

Spring Grove's 1,368 customers wear 400,000 of the laundry's garments. The provision, maintenance and cleaning of each garment at about 70p per week is the service now being marketed and last year formed the major share of the company's turnover of £19.9m.

A long way indeed from Mr Wu and his flickering eye.

Bill Johnston

## Croda 1979 results

(Unaudited)	1979	1978
	£000	£000
External sales	287,172	234,130
Trading profit	18,172	18,270
Surplus on disposal of investments	—	774
Net interest payable	18,172	17,044
Profit before taxation	14,742	15,117
UK taxation	(1,283)	2,409
Overseas taxation	1,491	1,374
Profit after taxation	13,674	11,334
Minority interests and preference dividends	84	57
Unrealised exchange losses	18,510	11,287
	184	410
Extraordinary item	13,316	10,857
	1,250	—
Net profit after taxation and extraordinary item available to ordinary shareholders	12,066	10,857
Amount absorbed by ordinary dividends	3,276	2,565
Profit retained	8,790	8,292
Earnings per share of 10p		
Basic	12.85p	10.75p
Fully diluted	11.57p	8.67p
Ordinary dividends—pence per share (net)		
Proposed final dividend Paid 6 December 1979:	1.8p	1.346345p
Interim 1979	1.5p	1.081942p
Supplementary interim 1977	—	0.018058p

Notes:  
1. The extraordinary item represents costs of plant closures.  
2. Capital allowances and stock relief eliminated after charge for UK Corporation Tax.  
3. The Board recommends a final dividend of 1.8p per share in respect of the year ended 30 December 1979. Subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting on 12 June 1980 the final dividend will be paid on 7 July 1980 to the shareholders whose names are on the share register on 8 June 1980.  
4. The proposed final dividend together with the interim already paid of 1.5p per share will make a total ordinary dividend for 1979 of 3.3p per share. This is an increase of almost 27% over the 1978 dividend.

Organic chemicals; hydrocarbon products; gelatin; acidulants; food ingredients; edible and processed vegetable oils; honey; graphic supplies; printing inks; industrial and marine finishes; adhesives; soaps.

United Kingdom America Australia Austria Brazil Canada France Germany Holland India Ireland Italy Japan Mexico New Zealand South Africa Spain.

Copies of Report and Accounts available on and after 15 May 1980 from The Secretary.

Croda  
Croda International Ltd  
Covick Hall Smith Gools  
North Humberdale  
DN14 9AA



## Gross value of China's output to rise 5.5 pc

The gross value of China's industrial and agricultural output will rise 5.5 per cent in 1980 over 1979 figure (almost £189,000m).

Mr Li Renjun, vice-minister of the state planning commission, told the standing committee of the Fifth National People's Congress in Peking that industrial output would rise 6 per cent from the 1979 figure of 459,000m yuan and agricultural production 3.8 per cent from last year's 158,000m yuan. The New China News Agency quoted him as saying: "It is necessary to further develop import and export, expand economic exchanges with foreign countries, expand production of export commodities in all parts of the country, and import more advanced technology."

### Warning for French

Tighter credit will quickly curb the economic expansion which France has enjoyed during the first quarter of 1980, the French Employers' Federation said in Paris.

### Tokyo car sales fall

Japan's imported car sales in March declined by 23.5 per cent to 5,417 from 7,218 the year before. The Japan Automobile Importers' Association said the main reason for the continued decline was the yen's depreciation, causing an increase in import prices.

### Austrian prices up

Austria's wholesale price index for March stood at a preliminary 115.5 per cent, 0.8 per cent above February and 1.1 per cent above March 1979, according to the central statistical office in Vienna.

### W German index

West Germany's February industrial production index was unchanged from January according to the economics ministry in Bonn.

### More Soviet steel

The Soviet Union will produce 58 per cent more steel than the United States by 1985, a turnaround from the mid-1960s, when America produced 30 per cent more, according to a Cleveland-based market research company.

### Fewer unemployed

Canadian seasonally adjusted unemployment was 7.4 per cent in March, unchanged from February, but down from 7.8 per cent in March last year.

Systeme firmly in support of NEB software subsidiary

## Silver lining in the clouds at Insac

Despite the controversy surrounding the National Enterprise Board's Insac computer software subsidiary, one member company, Systeme of Leeds, remains steadfast in its support of Insac.

Systeme builds complete business computer systems (hardware and software) around central processors supplied by Digital Equipment, the leading American minicomputer manufacturer. Since the NEB took a 26 per cent stake in Systeme in July 1977, the company has proved one of Insac's brightest in growth of turnover and profit.

Insac aims after its viewdata interests were hired off into the newly named Aregon group, to develop, market and export computer software products. Insac concentrates on products developed by member companies, in all of which the NEB holds a minority interest.

Mr John Parkinson, Systeme chairman, said he felt "almost outraged" at the recent spate of disparaging remarks about Insac, which has seen resignations from its board by other member companies. He says his company's experience was of a highly successful collaboration with the NEB subsidiary.

He pointed in particular to the company's Systel teleprocessing system as perhaps the only example of a joint Insac/ company project that had been carried out in line with the original Insac objectives.

This software was developed at an initial cost of £750,000, funded half by Insac and half by Systeme. It enables users of Digital PDP-11 and VAX-780 computers to develop and implement systems that can handle many remote terminals. The package is expected to be installed by a few large customers in the United Kingdom this year, prior to its launch on the all-important United States market.

Mr Parkinson denied suggestions that Insac was an easy source of money; proposals have to be detailed, and evaluation is thorough. "Having got over the hurdle of the technical proposal and the marketing proposal, the Insac view of funding is a very adult approach to the realities of software marketing." NEB executives had contributed good ideas that had helped to shape Systeme's five-year corporate plan.

Some of Insac's problems came from the clash of personalities and conflicts of interest among the chief executives of the member companies who came together as the Insac board. Mr Parkinson admitted that confidentiality remained a problem. Details of the Systel proposal, for example, would inevitably be seen by other Insac member companies who were competitors of Systeme.

This was accepted, by Systeme, at least, as one of the rules of the game. The original golden vision of progress

under the Insac umbrella, he said, had been overtaken by the pursuit of individual interest. He approved of the recent widening in Insac board membership to embrace outside non-executive directors with member companies' more direct concerns being handled at a lower level.

Systeme's turnover grew by about 70 per cent in 1979 to reach £15.6m for an after-tax profit of £1.5m. This year's turnover could show a further 50 per cent growth. Profits are ploughed back into the company, but the company could not immediately finance its own entry into the United States market.

The software industry is under-capitalised, and Insac offers a solution to this. We must fund and develop new application programmes as margins decrease on hardware."

Mr Parkinson was convinced that in the long term demand for good software people in western Europe would considerably exceed the supply.

One lesson which the Systeme chairman drew from the short, turbulent history of Insac was that the board should have done more to initiate projects and not simply approve members' proposals. Now that Insac is looking outside for suitable projects from non-member companies, it appears that this lesson has been learnt.

Kenneth Owen

## Post Office on course for division

By Our Management Correspondent

The Post Office has made good progress in reorganizing internally in preparation for its division into two corporations, according to a statement issued by Sir William Barlow, the chairman.

All the main decisions on internal changes are expected by June.

Staff in the central headquarters would be relocated to the postal or telecommunications businesses during the next two months, Sir William said. Every member of the central staff had been given the chance of stating his preference and no redundancy would be involved.

Two separate business boards, one covering Post and National Girobank and the other Telecommunications, have been set up to help pave the way for the separation. At present Sir William is chairman of both boards but the Government is due to appoint a chairman designate for each within the next few months.

Legislation to complete the split is expected to be placed before Parliament later this year.

The Post Office reorganization has been directed by a top management group which meets weekly and there have also been weekly meetings of a joint reorganization committee consisting of union and management executives.

In most areas where services were shared, such as vehicle maintenance and purchasing, plans were being implemented in full consultation with Post Office unions, the statement said.

## Clothing trade urged to rethink job problems

By Patricia Tisdall

Clothing companies could do more to overcome their recruitment problems, according to a report issued by the National Economic Development Office today. The reluctance of many employers to disclose details of actual earnings for skilled machinists to the Jobcentres, for example, tends to reinforce local mythology that the clothing industry pays badly, the report says.

A survey of employment in 20 clothing companies found that most had critical recruitment problems. There was a shortage of key skills such as sewing machinists and sewing machine mechanics. It concludes that companies should make a more systematic approach to recruitment and give special attention to advertising and relations with schools

and Jobcentres in their areas. Selection procedures could also be improved. Most companies rely only on an interview when recruiting staff. Some companies expect the Jobcentres to do some pre-selection screening, but do not provide complete detailed information about terms and conditions of employment. The few companies which use formal assessment methods have a lower turnover.

Few companies plan their future training requirements. Most rely heavily on the skills of a few experienced workers to provide the flexibility needed to compensate for absenteeism. People Make Clothing, from NEDO Books, 1 Steel House, 11 Torrill Street, London, SW1 8LJ, at £2.00 (£2.27 postage paid).

### RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new investment credit released by the Department of Trade.

	Sales volume 1976=100	New credit released £m	Implied change in debt
1979			
Jan	100.3	525	97
Feb	100.8	532	91
March	101.9	526	59
April	106.1	556	72
May	102.4	521	132
June	108.3	680	199
July	99.5	659	112
Aug	100.5	674	102
Sept	96.4	616	109
Oct	100.8	682	97
Nov	102.5	698	144
Dec	101.7	658	34
1980			
Jan	103.0	668	74
Feb	104.1	687	156

### WHOLESALE SALES

The following are the indices (1978=100) of wholesale prices of manufactured goods and the basic materials and fuels purchased by manufacturing industry yesterday.

	Output prices	Prices of materials and fuels	% change on previous month at annual rate
	(1)	(2)	(1) (2)
1978			
March	167.2	156.2	8.3 14.9
April	165.5	160.6	11.7 23.0
May	161.7	162.6	14.0 22.2
June	170.9	166.6	16.6 26.7
July	174.8	168.1	19.4 22.6
Aug	178.3	169.1	19.9 21.7
Sept	172.2	172.5	16.2 22.9
Oct	163.3	178.1	18.7 23.0
Nov	181.6	185.0	17.3 30.3
Dec	182.4	185.5	19.3 28.7
1980			
Jan	187.5	193.5	18.3 32.4
Feb	191.5	197.9	17.8 36.8
March	194.0	199.4	
P Provisional R Revised			

## Business appointments Bank names senior executive

Mr D. L. Millar has been appointed senior general manager of Standard Chartered Bank.

Mr John Breining-Riches has been made a director of Arrowcroft Management.

Mr Julian Markham has been re-elected chairman of the Landlord Property Consultative Council. He is chairman of Glasgow Property and a past president of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

Mr Tim Russell has joined the board of Dowsett Filling and Foundations.

Mr Clark Watson has become a director of Hutchinson & Craft. He is to be managing director of the group in July when Mr F. A. Shearer retires. Mr Shearer will remain a director.

Mr Patrick Zail is now a partner in Watson Phillips.

Mr Harry Lord has been made group secretary and a director of the United Kingdom Holdings Board.

Mr David Reeves is now managing director with Redding Electric.

Mr Geoffrey Hudson becomes financial director of Harland Machine Systems.

Mr Brian James is promoted managing director of the new Ward White Group company, Shoes for Leisure.

Dr W. C. Emmerson has been made technical director of Field, Sons.

Mr E. S. Readmore, managing director of Denison Manufacturing, takes on the additional role of chairman and is now chief executive of all United Kingdom operations following the retirement of Mr E. M. Smith, formerly chairman. Mr Smith retains a non-executive directorship.

Mr Jeremy Westwood has been made finance director of Marshall Cavendish Partworks. He replaces Mr Tim Wilton-Stear who has resigned to become managing director of Publisher (UK).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Indexing prices for capital gains tax

From Mr G. W. Gardiner

Sir, Once again the budget proposals fudge the problem of capital gains tax and increase the injustice arising from rules that allow exemption of some real capital gains and yet cause people who have in fact lost real capital to be heavily taxed.

No doubt even Treasury officials accept that if the capital gains tax system is to be honest and fair, acquisition prices must be indexed for inflation, but indexing is rejected on ground of administrative convenience.

It is my belief that the administrative reason for refusing indexing is not soundly based and I feel able to speak with some authority on the administrative problem as I am responsible for an office which has prepared thousands of capital gains tax computations.

To carry out a capital gains tax computation one ascertains the date and cost of acquisition; and date and proceeds of disposal. It is the gathering of this information which is time consuming. But it would be very simple to inflate the acquisition price if the Inland Revenue published a list of index figures for quarterly intervals.

All one would have to do is to take the first index figure after the date of acquisition and the index figure which is the latest before the date of disposal. The first figure would form the denominator and the second the numerator of a fraction by which the acquisition value would be multiplied.

If the Inland Revenue wishes to simplify the procedure further one would be prepared to concede half-yearly figures

instead of quarterly. Investors might, indeed, be prepared to concede that they opt to abandon the right to carry forward the losses which, as a result of the poor performance of the stock market, these calculations would produce in most cases; for they could then throw away the calculations and not bother themselves or the Inland Revenue with them further.

Pooled values would be troublesome and a first in first out basis would be preferable, and indeed quite logical.

As the administrator of over 6,000 trust portfolios I can observe clearly the specification that CGT has brought to the capital market. It is quite impossible to deploy investment resources where they are of most use because of the locking effect of CGT on inflationary gains.

In addition there is the destabilising effect of CGT on the capital market, an effect readily apparent from the volatility of investment indices since CGT removed the speculation from the market. Whereas in the five years before CGT was introduced the peak of the industrial share index was 40 per cent above its bottom, in the five years after the introduction of CGT the difference rose to 80 per cent, and in the succeeding five years to about 350 per cent. It is the effect of CGT on the stabilising effect of CGT should not be allowed to be amplified by inflation.

Yours faithfully,  
G. W. GARDINER  
3 Molly Potts Close,  
Knutsford,  
Cheshire, WA16 8QT.  
April 9.

## Credit transfer: a way out

From Mr A. C. A. Hopkins

Sir, It was pleasing to see your correspondent (J. P. Dougherty, April 8) pointing out the ways around the withdrawal of the credit transfer facility at banks by major public utilities.

He raises the question as to why it is the payer and not the payer who is being charged. Currently those without bank accounts get a free credit transfer system, whilst those with accounts subsidise the service!

Unfortunately the obvious conclusion is missing from the letter. With National Girobank currently offering a cheaper current account service than other banks (even the Co-op when free postage is taken into consideration), people should

go to their nearest Post Office and pick up a free banking leaflet containing a Girobank application form.

They can then pay virtually all their rates, gas, electricity, telephone, and insurance by free transfer with free postage. They get more frequent and more helpful bank statements, and pay anything else by transfer or cheque as before, but also perhaps cheaper still. More and more large businesses now have Girobank accounts too.

Yours faithfully,  
AIDAN C. A. HOPKINS,  
Kingscroft Insurance Agency,  
PO Box 9,  
Egham,  
Surrey, TW20 8JF.  
April 8.

## A fluid duty on liquids

From Mr B. B. Soul

Sir, The duty on fluids is itself strangely fluid; when the Chancellor announces an increase in the duty on petrol and on alcohol, to take effect within a few hours, many garages find it necessary to raise the retail price of petrol also within a few hours, while many sellers of wines and spirits (having previously urged customers to

"beat the budget") find it possible to maintain pre-budget prices "while existing stocks last".

Could someone explain?

Yours faithfully,  
B. B. SOUL,  
51 Lakeside,  
Earley,  
Reading,  
Berkshire,  
April 2.

## Bank profits and interest on accounts

From H. G. Powys

Sir, There have been hints that since the end of very substantial profits being banks, they may pay interest on accounts.

I sincerely hope not take this step, lead to a large bureaucracy in both public and private sectors is paid on current will no doubt be bank computers to interest.

The banks will be to advise the holder of any interest person in excess of Inland Revenue will to trace this information to the file of the taxpayer. Equally, will have an obligation to advise the holder of any interest, £15, and his advice any, will have the complication of assessments on an of interest.

After all, any customer who feels interest can transfer very easily to a de and equally easily again.

Yours faithfully,  
H. G. POWYS GRI  
Widbury House,  
Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire,  
April 4.

## Three-t postal delivery

From Mr H. Galgut

Sir, The Mergers Commission recommends that difference between second-class stamp increased. Is it, that the two-tier is here to stay?

Introducing a involved holding a mail was surely a tative solution to the mail delivery problem, the system remains, there is no increasing the efficiency of postal services.

"Improvement" as be as feeble as a three-tier system first-class mail with second-class being incinerator, or re senders.

Yours faithfully,  
H. GALGUT,  
7 Knoll Court,  
Farquhar Road,  
Dulwich Wood Park,  
London, SE19 1SP  
April 4.

**BH** BLACKWOOD HODGE

## ANNUAL REPORT 1979

The world's largest distributor of earthmoving equipment



Preliminary Results	1979	1978
Sales	£281,648,000	£246,427,000
Trading profit before interest	£22,679,000	£21,969,000
Profit after taxation	£6,217,000	£7,701,000
Ordinary dividends per share	2.5p	2.05p

From 25th April, 1980 copies of the 1979 Annual Report may be obtained from the Company Secretary, Blackwood Hodge Limited, 25 Berkeley Square W1A 4AX.



Empire Stores

Our sales increased by 23% and trading profit by 21%. Our profit before tax was affected by high interest rates but increased by 12.5%. The proposed final dividend will result in an increase for the year of 13.6% after adjusting for the capitalisation issue.

Despite the high cost of borrowed money, the Board will continue with its policy of steady growth to ensure that the Company is in a strong position to take advantage of any improvement in the economy.

John Gratwic  
Chairman

Group Results	1980	1979
52 weeks ended January	£200	£200
Sales (excluding VAT)	134,246	109,232
Net Profit before Taxation	9,121	8,109
Net Profit after Taxation	4,963	4,274
Earnings per share	15.20p	13.09p
Dividends: Interim	2.4p	2.479p
Proposed Final	2.7p	2.90847p

### Sales

1980	£134m
1979	£109m
1978	£93m
1977	£77m
1976 (53 weeks)	£60m

### Profit before tax

1980	£9.1m
1979	£8.1m
1978	£6.9m
1977	£5.4m
1976 (53 weeks)	£4.4m

**Empire Stores**

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## British Petroleum in transition

It was good that British Petroleum's last year's Current Cost Accounting bumper £1.6bn of net income, cutting the return on capital from the historic figure of almost 20 per cent to just under 10. This return, according to the chairman Sir David Steel, is one, but entirely necessary, to the planned capital expenditure. CA figures, however, tell only half the story, as the accounts show a fundamental change in its position from being a substantial crude oil producer to a Middle East oil company, and is now needing around five million tonnes a quarter term contracts, and on the way, to meet its refinery requirements.

At the same time as it has lost its access to its equity production from Alaska, its equity production has increased in volume, dramatically, in price. It is little doubt that the changes in the market last year worked out to BP's advantage. The gain in the value of its 1—which has risen from 20 per cent to 25 per cent—outweighed the problems of buying in expensive, difficult, short-term supplies.

BP's capital, nevertheless, was forced by £1.6bn, but the group as a whole, capital spending of £1.13bn in 1979, of £442m, and there was a move to reduce long term borrowing in the United States subsidiary. The group faces a different picture: the loss of Middle East oil will be strongly to trim profits. Prices are high, but are not being raised. Europe, which was a profit earner last year, is not nearly so good in 1980. BP's Carter's windfall profits tax 200m from Solihull, and an increase will add another £100m to the group's tax bill. For the first time, in the United Kingdom in 1980, BP is close to tax provided for. Earnings rose to a peak which may not be for some time.

BP is in transition, from crude oil to Western oil producer, it is a which is not yet complete and as uncertainties for the future. The velocity of investing in the United Kingdom has been reduced, it has of cash earnings around 20 per cent, which has now sold Dobbs an American company. Now that has been much reduced, it has of cash earnings around 20 per cent, which has now sold Dobbs an American company. Now that has been much reduced, it has of cash earnings around 20 per cent, which has now sold Dobbs an American company.

### NEWS ON WRITING

Royal Exchange brought the market yesterday on an awful results the insurance companies, with profits drop of 9 per cent to 10 per cent.

appeared well enough with the 17 15 per cent shortfalls reported by Sun Alliance and Phoenix. But the market took particular to GRE marring one of the best of records in the sector, by profit of £13.6m in place of the surplus of £4.8m, and accordingly shares down 10p to 220p.

level the historic p/e ratio is 14 the shares yield 8.3 per cent, a 16 per cent boost to the pay-

ment. Given that GRE seems to have taken the opportunity this time to get rid of a lot of bad news on the underwriting front, the rating is not demanding.

Like its rivals, GRE was hard hit by bad weather but the turnaround from a previous United Kingdom underwriting surplus of £5.4m to break-even is largely due to a £3.5m provision on the potential computer leasing losses, which are currently rocking Lloyd's. Meanwhile a £5m loss from France, on a mere £15m of policies, looks almost too bad to be true.

Given better underwriting prospects at home and fairly minimal exposure to the ravages of the United States underwriting cycle (in spite of the recent purchase of Midwestern Fidelity), a profits recovery to between £85m and £90m, based on a rise in investment income, seems to be on the cards.

### Croda International Still drifting sideways

Croda International has been drifting sideways for several years. Results for 1979 only emphasised the trend—or lack of it—and there is little to suggest that Croda will buck the downturn in chemicals in 1980. Profits could fall as low as £13m before tax. The drop in 1979 profits from £15.1m to £14.7m was largely due to the £1.5m rise in net interest payable to £3.43m, following a £10m increase in borrowings.

Croda is tackling this, but given present interest rates and the size of its debt, the group could be paying £3m in interest charges in the first half of 1980 alone.

There were a number of bright spots in 1979. Organic chemicals, polymers and the overseas companies all produced good results. This more than made up for a £1.5m turnaround to £500,000 losses in the gelatin operations, and trading profits were £1.9m higher.

Croda can also boast a dividend covered one and a half times by current cost profits. And although the year's payout rose by only a quarter, which was less than expected, this may leave room for a small increase in 1980.

But there is not much else to cheer about. First half profits in 1980 will be depressed by interest charges and continuing losses on gelatin operations, though these have been slimmed. The share at 43p yield 10.3 per cent, and the fully-taxed prospective p/e ratio is about 7.

Given the current cost cover, the yield should support the shares at this level, but they are not likely to appreciate in the short term.

### Gill & Duffus Diversification risks

Gill & Duffus has a record of solid profits growth, and can reasonably claim to have done well by its shareholders. All the more reason, then, why they should view last year's setback (from £22.7m to £20.5m pre-tax) with a certain amount of trepidation.

In fact, the figure is better than forecast; and this, an improvement at the attributable level (thanks to a lower tax charge and the release of previous year provisions), and a 37.7 per cent increase in the distribution, were enough to put the shares 5p higher at 132p, where the yield is 7.6 per cent.

There are explanations for the setback. The cocoa market, on which Gill & Duffus is still heavily dependent, was dull; the new cocoa powder plant in the States was slow to come on stream, and ran into competition when it did; the strength of sterling, particularly against the dollar and the cruzeiro, cost some £500,000 at the trading level, and much more below the line.

What they add up to is the fact that, in its efforts to expand and diversify, the group is going to run up against problems that do not arise on the traditional cocoa trading business that it knows inside out already. The efforts continue nevertheless; and in some areas—notably chemical trading—are starting to pay off.

The shares may not be the "lock-away" they once were, but they are not expensive.

### Economic notebook

## Alice-in-Wonderland arithmetic of oil

It is now clear that the Government took a decidedly rough and ready approach to the calculations underlying its medium-term financial strategy. Most of the figures appear to lean on the optimistic side. The figures in public spending and particularly in the borrowing of nationalised industries seem very shaky.

There also seems to be some pretty generous assumptions about the way in which most of the Government's revenue will actually hold up over the next three years.

But in one area at least, the Government is being ultra-cautious. This is in the amount of money which it will receive from the North Sea. The Treasury estimates that between 1979-80 and 1983-4 North Sea revenue will rise by £2,500m to 1978-9 prices.

The Government has made it as hard as possible to compare this figure with the estimates made by outside forecasters. The medium-term plan makes no estimate of the total revenue at the end of the period, just how much it will grow from its present level, which we are not told.

But even allowing for the deliberate opacity of the Government's statements, it seems clear that the Treasury estimates of the revenue which the Government will receive from North Sea oil are lower than those made by outside economists.

Why is there a gap, how big is it and what are the policy implications?

The reason for the gap would seem to be the completely unrealistic price assumption the Government has used for North Sea oil. In 1978, oil from the North Sea cost just over \$14 a barrel and in 1979 it cost about \$19; in 1979-80 prices will rise to \$20, a value of something between these figures.

Estimates of total government revenue from the North Sea (1980 Prices: post-Budget changes)		
	Phillips & Drew	Wood MacKenzie
1980	£300m	£300m
1981	4.3	5.28
1982	5.5	7.56
1983	6.7	9.84
1984	7.9	12.12
1985	9.1	14.40

Thanks to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries the cost today is just over \$33 a barrel, or roughly twice as much as the Government assumes.

The impact on government revenues is even greater. Profits from the North Sea rise very rapidly as the price of oil goes up, since production costs do not increase while revenue does.

The Government's share of the profits, under the complex system of North Sea taxation, also rises as profits go up. So the Government is gaining an increasing share of increasing income.

The results are shown in the accompanying table. The Government's revenue increases by between £6,000m to £8,000m at constant 1980 prices over the next five years, depending on which estimate one takes. The reason for the gap between this and the Government figure, as we showed above, is that the Government takes no account of the sharp, relative increase in the oil price which has occurred over the past year.

Why did the Government choose to produce a forecast which is so difficult to understand and clearly unrealistic? There seems to have been both external and domestic reasons.

First, the Government is worried that other members of the EEC would be the prospect of rising revenues to argue that the United Kingdom does not need a big cut in its contribution to the Community budget.

Secondly, by concealing the likely size of revenues the Government has made it easier to persuade spending ministers to accept cuts.

Third, the likelihood of much higher receipts from the North Sea than have been incorporated into the forecast gives a substantial safety margin, necessary in the light of the uncertainties about other parts of the plan.

Finally, the prospect of being able to produce revenue for further tax cuts as it by such a substantial safety margin, necessary in the light of the uncertainties about other parts of the plan.

But it is here that under-estimating the revenue likely to flow from the North Sea can have quite drastic effects on policy. For there is nothing magical about the source of the money which the Government will get from the North Sea. It comes from consumers who are being forced to pay higher prices.

Motorists saw the price of a gallon of petrol go up by 40p as a result of the oil price rises in 1979—four times as much as the increase caused by the raising of excise duty in the Budget.

Just as in 1973, the economic impact of the increase in oil prices is broadly equivalent to a very large increase in indirect taxation. The increase in oil prices over the past year has probably taken about £4,000m out of the economy, which is equivalent to increasing value-added tax by 8 per cent. The difference is that the British Government, rather than the Government of one of the Open countries, which shares these gains with the oil companies.

Such a sharp increase in what is essentially an indirect tax, since it is passed on directly to the consumer, is bound to have severe inflationary implications. Yet the way in which we present our financial statistics in Britain does not make it look like an indirect tax increase at all.

The money is collected largely as a result of petroleum revenue or corporation tax, both of which come through the Inland Revenue. As such, they will tend to be regarded as income taxes and will strengthen the views of those who think we rely too much on income as opposed to expenditure taxes.

This is exactly the wrong lesson to draw. The Government's revenue from the North Sea comes from an increased tax on expenditure which has a direct effect on prices. If the real price of oil rises, it will be equivalent to a sharp increase in the incidence of these taxes.

The lesson of 1979 ought to be that the Government pushed its preference for taxes on spending close to the limits of acceptable. Increasing VAT to 15 per cent built up severe inflationary expectations in the economy. It ought therefore to be at least to consider the case for moderating the price pressures which it imposes on the economy.

Yet exactly opposite philosophy seems to underlie the Government's present strategy. The cuts in public spending are heavily concentrated in areas which will push up prices. The biggest savings come from cuts in housing, much of which will have to come from increases in council rents and cuts in the external financing needs of nationalised industries, which will have to come from increases in their prices.

All the discussion on the Government's room for manoeuvre so far has focused on the scope for cutting the standard rate of income tax from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. But should it not really be considering the case for reducing inflationary expectations by cutting value-added tax instead?

David Blake

## When a disclaimer is not all that it seems

It is two years since the Unfair Contract Terms Act was passed. This prevented those who provide services from attempting to escape their liability for death or injury because of negligence by the use of an exclusion clause or disclaimer. But there is no such definite rule in the case of loss or injury.

Exclusion clauses are still widely to be seen at municipal car parks, in laundries and dry cleaners, in some holiday brochures and at repairers generally.

In the cloakroom at the Confederation of British Industries headquarters, for instance, there is a disclaimer of all responsibility for anything left there. Tickets from the House of Lords cloakroom say much the same.

Car parks often notify motorists that they will not be responsible for "loss or damage to vehicles including their accessories or contents whatsoever or howsoever caused".

Several of the 15 self-regulatory codes of practice which the Office of Fair Trading, under its Director-General Mr Gordon Borrie, has negotiated with trade associations, prohibit the use of exclusion clauses purporting to limit traders' responsibilities.

But when last reviewed by the OFT 16 per cent of laundries and dry cleaners, members of associations that had signed their code, were using disclaimers, compared with almost half of the non-signatory shops.

Among car repairers one third of the members of the Motor Agents' Association disclaim responsibility for vehicles and contents left in their care. The Office of Fair Trading could not even make it a condition of the code applying to photographic processing companies that no restriction should be placed on liability for loss or damage of customers' property.

It is a weakness that the Unfair Contract Terms Act shares with the rest of consumer law that private individuals are reluctant to take their cases to court, whereby a test of "reasonableness" could be established which would make the law clearer. The Office of Fair Trading points out that there is normally little hope of legal aid in consumer cases seeking civil compensation.

Customers may thus be suffering loss or damage from exclusion clauses which might have no legal validity if put to the test, and at the same time the higher courts have no opportunity to interpret the "reasonableness" of a disclaimer.

Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association and a prime backer of the Unfair Contract Terms Act, is not convinced that it is fear of costs that accounts for the exemption clauses.

This ticket is issued on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ and is NOT transferable.

\_\_\_\_\_ accept no liability whatsoever for loss or damage to vehicles, accessories or other goods however caused. Use of the car park shall be deemed as acceptance of the terms and conditions subject to which this ticket is issued which are displayed at the car park entrance.

This ticket remains the property of \_\_\_\_\_

As yet, however, there is no sign of such cases coming to court. The Consumers' Association, which was responsible for getting the largest part of the Unfair Contract Terms Act on to the statute book, knows of only a handful of cases in which it has been used and those were all using the small claims procedure in county courts and therefore were not cases to create legal precedent. In one case the court decided that a clause limiting a removal company's responsibility for damage to property to only £10 was unreasonable. In other

Private individuals are reluctant to take cases to court so that a test of 'reasonableness' could be established

cases companies have paid up when the Act was drawn to their attention, but they were faced with a county court summons.

In one case, for example, British Rail chose not to use a defence based on one of its conditions of carriage which disclaimed all responsibility for the loss of property left on its premises and trains. In that case it had lost a passenger's spectacles after writing to tell her they had been found.

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paucity of litigation it has created to date. Could it not be that commerce and industry continue to use their naughty exclusion clauses to frighten off a number of aggrieved consumers who might otherwise be a nuisance, but if anyone seriously challenges them they back down, pay compensation in the individual case and do not plead defence of the clause in court for fear of what the Unfair Contract Terms Act might do? he asks.

It is also, Mr Tench thinks, likely that business will keep blanket exclusion clauses until the courts do indeed give judgments on what is and what is not reasonable. "It is impossible for a company lawyer to draft a reasonable exclusion clause at present because nobody knows what it is. So he is likely to say: 'We'll stick with what we've got'."

Mr Borrie and Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, are now considering whether the Office of Fair Trading should be empowered to assist plaintiffs to pursue cases which might clarify this aspect of the law. Mrs Oppenheim referred to the possibility of sponsoring test cases in the field of consumer law when addressing the Consumers' Association's annual meeting last year.

### Doubtful

But there are big difficulties to overcome. There is no precedent for a government sponsoring test cases in this way, and for Mr Borrie to take up test cases would require legislation to amend the Fair Trading Act. Even then it is doubtful that Mr Borrie could himself go to court to plead the case of a plaintiff. He is not in the same position as a Scandinavian Consumer Ombudsman and business interests would suspect the meaning of "fair trading" if he were seen to take sides in advance of the law's interpretation.

It is more likely that the Office of Fair Trading would identify suitable cases for testing exclusion clauses and then make available public money to defray the expenses of both sides. If suitable cases still proved hard to find, Mr Borrie might be empowered to put hypothetical cases before the high court to obtain authoritative opinions of what is unreasonable and unfair to consumers.

Robin Young

### Business Diary: CBI's rising sun • Abell helper?

Totterill Street head- a just gained a future aspect. The ingdom arm of anasonic, the pro- tronic group, has eluted in the gentle- of British industry, a qualifies because it television and hi-fi Cardiff and it is the footsteps of its counterpart Sony. increasing oriental Totterill Street could federation on the import controls. The ust announced that ring banning impor- sets, t give the "Made in bel on Panasonic's ingdom sets a new istance.

will the CBI, which ically opposed to ols, but admits that e times when they riate react to one bers being treat-

from Totterill Street a particular bridge osidered when it is

Ford of Britain, probably one of the most cost-conscious of the nation's motor manufacturers, has just appointed its first energy conservation coordinator. He is Ron Baldock, a Ford man for the past 36 years, who wants to see the company reduce its energy consumption by 10 per cent. Ford has released some figures to show how impressive such a saving could be. Last year, the United Kingdom organization spent £52m on electricity, fuel oil, lubricating oils and coal. The 90 million therm of gas used could provide heating and hot water for 100,000 homes for a year and the 1,012 million units of electricity consumed could meet the total needs of Manchester for six months.

The company admits that it is the largest consumer of energy in the Ford of Europe operation, but says that this is because it employs more people, carries out more research and is the largest Ford tractor producer in the world.

Panasonic United Kingdom's chairman, Brian Kelly, a one time managing director of CEC's radio and television side, is delighted at joining the CBI and wants the EEC's proposed ban scrapped by national action. "British interests have been perfectly happy with the voluntary agreements in the past, so I can't see why the EEC should want to interfere," he told Business Diary.

But if the EEC shunter did come down against Japanese imports, the United Kingdom subsidiary, with 70 per cent of the components in its products now made in Britain, would be admirably placed to fill the gap.



Ron Baldock

Baldock, formerly manager of general services at Ford's Dagenham works, has been given the task of cutting energy use in the United Kingdom and promoting conservation awareness throughout Europe. As a fellow of the Institute of Energy and a past member of the energy policy committee of the Confederation of British Industries, he appears to have the right qualifications for the job.

David Abell, 37, who runs BL's commercial vehicles division, is expected to come to the aid of ailing Mersey Docks and Harbour next week. Abell already owns a stake in the Mersey Docks' equity and his name is being bandied about more and more frequently as someone with sufficient financial knowledge to pull the troubled group into the black.

Such a move would not involve his quitting BL, however. With a half-time loss of almost £1m, Mersey certainly needs some help.

Where is the Association of British Chambers of Commerce? Has it stopped, like so many of our London organizations, into that Bermuda Triangle of the telephone system which the Post Office is now trying to sort out?

The ABCC happens to be the worst example of which I am aware, but there are plenty of other victims of the Post Office's failure to update its telephone books.

For instance, impossible, as far as I can tell, to get through to the Central Hall Westminster, because its listed numbers now belong to other subscribers and the ones which are available from the telephone exchange appear to be out of order.

Another victim is the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. If you ring the number given for Ag Fish in the book, you are answered by a wobbly recorded voice which duly gives you another number to ring and informs you there has been no charge for your call.

The Post Office Users' National Council tells me that it has received a number of complaints from businesses which have been unable to trace other companies through the directory or through inquiries.

The reason, according to the Post Office, is last year's computer staff strike which has delayed the sending out of new directories.

But back to the ABCC. If you ring the number given for in the book, the operator may eventually interrupt and offer a new number. I rang it and got a private line at the Welsh Office.

I await other examples of large British institutions which have vanished into thin air.

Curtis Hessler, who once owned the Balliol College, Oxford, has just been sworn in the odd of ways as Assistant United States Treasury Secretary for Economics.

To be precise, Hessler, who is 36, took his oath, administered by William Miller, the Secretary of the Treasury, as both wore green surgical gowns in the maternity ward of a Washington hospital.

Hessler's wife had just given birth to a boy, named Alexander, and Miller decided that the hospital would be a more fitting place than the Treasury for the ceremony.

Hessler was an early supporter of Jimmy Carter and has now been richly rewarded after spending the last few years in assorted White House and Budget Office economics posts.

He took his master's degree in economics only in 1976 and is in the middle of completing a doctorate in international economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Despite the misgivings which Ross Davies voiced a few weeks ago in this column, the British matchbook is not yet dead. Royal Insurance, Trinity House and the Greater Manchester Fire Service still produce them—how they are all connected with disasters—and there is even a society for the hobby, the British Matchbox Label and Booklet Society. Reader R. L. Borthwick, of Oadby, Leicester, possesses 25,000 covers and I have absolutely no desire to discover if this is a record.

David Hewson

Bristol & West lent £147 million in mortgages in 1979.

Over half-a-million people save with or borrow from the Bristol & West.

## Another satisfactory year' Bristol & West



Total assets of the Bristol & West exceeded £745 million at end 1979.

The Society again achieved satisfactory results, Mr Andrew Breach, C.B.E., Chairman of the Bristol & West Building Society. Reporting to members on the year ending 31st December 1979, he made the following points: Assets The total assets at £745 million showed an increase of 14.13%. Cash and investments at the year end exceeded £173 million, with a substantial proportion available at short notice. Advances Of the £147 million advanced, over 99% was secured on private homes for owner-occupation. Meeting demand All members' mortgage demands were met in 1979, without creating a waiting queue.

Receipts Shareholders and depositors invested £396 million, including re-invested interest. After withdrawals, investors' balances increased by £90 million. Branches During the year eight new branches were opened in England, three in Scotland and two in Wales. At the year end, the Society had 127 branches. The Future The Bristol & West is in good heart and members may rely on their reasonable requirements being met.

**Bristol & West BUILDING SOCIETY** Security you can build on A MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

If you would like a copy of the Annual Report & Accounts and the full Chairman's Statement, please apply to: The Secretary Bristol & West Building Society, The Bristol & West Building, Broad Quay, Bristol, B2 2JL. Telephone: 0272 294271.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Sharp downturn at Blackwood Hodge

By Philip Robinson

Shares of earth moving and mining equipment distributors Blackwood Hodge dropped to a 12-month low yesterday as the company disappointed the stock market with a £5.5m profit drop for last year to £10.9m. Turnover rose 14 per cent to £281m.

The news shaved 3p from the price to 38p, though the shares later recovered to 39p. The total gross dividend rose 21 per cent to 3.57p with the 2.142p final already forecast.

Share parts for its machines is the major margin earner for Blackwood and in the United Kingdom the transport, engineering and the 14-week open cast coal mining strikes meant machine parts were not wearing out fast enough.

With little work, competition became fierce and the United Kingdom trading profit dropped from £10.4m to £7.5m.

But the pretax figure was also affected by a £165m provision on sunk losses on crane maker Hydrocon Engineering—which supplied Blackwood, and has gone into receivership—and the change in the status of the Nigerian mining from subsidiary to associate.

That cost the group nearly £24m as its share of profits was reduced to 40 per cent and

as profits of the Nigerian company fell from £5m to around £1m.

Elsewhere in Africa the reduced price of copper and financing difficulties by customers reduced trading profits by about £800,000.

However, other overseas operations all improved performance. Europe, which three years ago was running at a loss, doubled earnings to £2m and the open cast mining bonanza in Australia more than doubled profits to £3m.

Mr William Shapland, chairman, said the mining equipment industry was an important growth area. "Australia can now sell coal to Britain £10 a tonne cheaper than the National Coal Board", he said.

Despite a smaller tax charge of £4.7m and the release of deferred tax provision of just over £1m the group showed a £1.8m extraordinary item relating to a write-off of goodwill on the vehicle distribution group it bought from National Carbinising last November. Profits to the parent company fell from £7.7m to £4.9m.

Mr Shapland says this year's profits could top last year's figure with a larger increase in net profits because of non-recurring exceptional and extraordinary items.

## Stock markets

## Reduction in short tap price starts a rally

The intervention of the Government broker in reducing the price of the short tap acted as the signal for both gilt edged and equity markets to move ahead yesterday—just as it looked as though investment lethargy would cause Tuesday's losses to continue.

The pattern of the previous day's trading, when there were small selling orders, was transformed into some larger buying by the institutions. Hopes that American interest rates were at the top, and Wall Street's early 6 point improvement to 775, encouraged the London market at the start, although dealers believe that the market's upward movement can only be sustained by good banking figures, due today, and the introduction of a new tap issue.

The equity rally was prompted by the cut in the price of the short tap in Exchequer 134 per cent 1983 from £97 when issued in January to £95.3. The effect was to create a small dampener on shorts, which closed firm about £4 up on the day. Longer-dated gilts, which saw brisk trading throughout the day, finished at the top between £3 and £4 better on average.

A crop of mixed company results, and a few special situa-

tions, provided much of the interest in equities, although oil staged a rally after the previous day's setback when the Thistle Field was closed. Mines failed to retain the support shown after the improvement in the bullion price on Tuesday.

The FT Index climbed steadily all day to close at 431.3, up 4.6. After hours, the tendency was for leaders to harden a penny or two, while slits were neglected.

Most of the blue chip stocks gained a few pence, with the majority of buyers going for 25,000 to 50,000-share parcels. ICI gained 4p to 370p, as did Glaxo which closed at 248p. Beechams added 3p to 116p and Pisons 2p to 267p, with Courtaulds also gaining 2p to 66p. Rank at 196p and Unilever at 396p were unchanged.

Satisfactory results from Gill and Duffus put 2p on the shares to 133p, while Dreamland Electrical gained 4p to 59p after record profits. Empire Stores eased 2p to 143p with a warning about a profits fall in the second half. Blackwood Hodge's figures were worse than expected and the shares finished 1p off at 39p, after dipping 3p during the day. Croda International, whose results were broadly in line

with expectations, lost 4p to 43p. The insurance sector provided conflicting reactions to results. Guardian Royal Exchange lost 10p to 220p after disappointing the market, while Pearl Assurance gained 14p to 170p on news that its proposed big American acquisition had fallen through.

On the bid front, investors took head of the S. Hoffmann board's opposition to the Burns Philp offer and lifted the price 3p to 82p. Graig Shipping saw some speculative interest, which helped to move the price further off the bottom and pushed it 150p up to 210. Hawley Leisure gained 2p to 43p after reports that it would bid for Provincial Laundry, with whom it shares a chairman. Provincial moved up 3p to 371p.

Johnson Matthey benefited from the continued rise in metals prices, and finished 5p up at 253p, while gold shares lost the impetus of the previous day but still made improvements. Anglo American Gold rose 3p to 475p, F. S. Gould gained 5p to 553p and West Driffield rose 5p to 569p. Cons Gold was 4p better at 481p but RTZ was unchanged at 373p.

Trust House Forte rose 3p to 304p when its figures were announced.

Burton Group rose 4p to 129p in front of today's announcement, but Aurora Holdings fell 6p to 49p in nervousness before the publication of the figures today.

Trust House Forte rose 3p to

170p on news that its proposed big American acquisition had fallen through.

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Trust House Forte rose 3p to

Oil share prices came back sharply after the downturn earlier in the week. The partnership in the Thistle Field venture recovered, with Burnish rising 8p to 213p. Ultramar 10p higher at 536p and Yicentral advancing 1p to 286p.

Lasmo received the biggest spurt in the sector and went up 27p to 463p, while Siebens, which had been depressed by worries over the "Marathon" drilling report, came back 17p better at 371p. The majors also followed the trend with Shell and BP gaining 12p to 344p and 376p respectively.

Eytmov moved for April 8 was £72.75m (number of bargains 12,841). The most active stocks according to Exchange Telegraph were Shell, Burmah, Barclays, Premier, Rascal, ICI, Beecham, RAF Industries, C&G, Grand Metropolitan Hotels, National Westminster, Midland, Ultramar, and Lasmo.

## Empire Stores warning

By Our Financial Mail order group (Bradford) day that unless a sharp rise in consumer before July, present six month below last year's.

The board said were ahead to a "significant" mid-term figures by "substantial" postal and interest.

The warning came group's full-year end of January was 12.5 per cent rise to £9.1m on per cent at £13.4m.

The interest charge £402,000 to just a Mr John Gratwicke, said interest again be a significant level of profits.

The group has a dividend 13.6 pence for last May's one issue, from 6.41p with a 4.155p final.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div.	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Ash & Lacy (F)	26.7(33.2)	2.59(1.9)	43.7(33.5)	6.0(3.89)	28/5	11.5(7.39)
Burnish (F)	—	0.12(0.005)	0.62(—)	0.62(—)	28/5	0.62(—)
Blackwood H. (F)	281.6(246.4)	10.8(16.4)	7.24(9.93)	1.5(1.29)	31/5	2.5(2.05)
F. Copson (I)	3.12(2.81)	0.1(0.07)	1.2(0.8)	1.6(1.35)	7/7	3.4(2.5)
Croda Int. (F)	207(234)	14.7(15.1)	12.9(10.8)	3.5(3.56)	1/7	7.5(6.88)
Danish Bacon (F)	225.9(203.02)	2.0(1.09)	48(24)	1.7(0.9)	7/7	2.4(1.4)
Dreamland E. (F)	10.6(8.3)	1.49(1.15)	7.5(5.46)	1.7(0.9)	7/7	7.75(6.33)
Fothergill & H. (F)	17.7(14.7)	2.02(1.63)	19.7(17.8)	5.0(4.43)	—	4.87(4.87)
James Dickie & Co. (F)	0.22(0.32)	7.4(8.38)	2.7(2.42)	1.0(0.68)	25/5	5.1(4.48)
Empire Stores (F)	134.2(109.3)	9.12(8.1)	15.2(13.09)	4.3(3.4)	—	3.2(2.55)
Ferry Pickering (I)	4.07(3.32)	75.8(6.3)	32.4(3.9)	2.6(2.55)	28/5	1.48(1.34)
G.R.E. (F)	—	0.4(0.61)	1.1(1.01)	1.1(1.01)	28/5	1.34(1.06)
S. Jerome & Sons (Holding)	14.57(12.92)	1.1(1.45)	5.5(5.4)	0.96(0.83)	21/6	17(14.05)
Greenbank Ind. (F)	11.92(11.1)	2.09(2.27)	4.15(4.28)	0.74(0.54)	28/5	3.1(2.48)
Gill & Duffus (F)	711(706)	20.5(22.7)	10.1(11.8)	0.96(0.83)	21/6	17(14.05)
E. L. Bas (F)	16.3(15.41)	0.24(0.63)	10.1(11.8)	12(10.2)	11/6	17(14.05)
Pearl Ass (F)	—	8.46(5.48)	—	15.8(6.3)	2/6	—
Peters Stores (I)	4.5(3.35)	1.7(1.1)	10.9(1.84)	2.15(1.77)	3/5	5.1(2.48)
Ruberoide (F)	36.55(32.47)	3.09(2.59)	2.91(1.86)	30/4	7.21(4.34)	—
Startrite Eng. (F)	—	0.005(0.002)	—	—	—	—
Alfred Walker (I)	1.4(1.54)	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish the profit after tax and dividends are net. \* Comparisons re-stated, treating Nigeria as associate company; † Adjusted for scrip issue; ‡ Figures for both years are net profits available for appropriation; § Loss.

## Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

## Results for 1979

Subject to audit the results of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Limited for the year ended 31st December, 1979 are as follows:

	1979	1978
£m	£m	£m
Investment Income	90.3	77.1
Less Interest Payable	7.9	6.7
	82.4	70.4
Underwriting Results		
Short-term (Fire, Accident and Marine)	(13.6)	4.8
Long-term	7.0	8.1
	(6.6)	12.9
Profit before taxation	75.8	83.3
Less taxation	33.3	40.9
Profit for year after taxation	42.5	42.4
Less Preference dividend and Minority Interests	1.7	1.1
Profit for year after taxation available to Ordinary shareholders	40.8	41.3
Ordinary Dividends		
Interim 5.0p per share	6.3	5.9
Proposed Final 8.5p per share	10.7	8.7
Total 13.5p per share (1978: 11.6p)	17.0	14.6
Profit transferred to Retained Profits	£23.8m	£26.7m
Earnings per Ordinary share (after taxation)	32.4p	32.9p

## Results by Territories (before Taxation)

	1979			1978		
	Net Premiums	Under-writing	Investment Income	Net Premiums	Under-writing	Investment Income
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Australia	25.5	(0.1)	4.7	25.1	1.2	3.7
Canada	47.3	(1.9)	4.8	47.3	0.8	4.6
Germany	130.1	(5.4)	14.1	131.3	(8.6)	14.1
U.S.A.	20.9	0.7	3.1	16.6	1.2	2.7
U.K.*	275.2	—	35.6	239.7	5.4	27.5
Other Territories**	161.7	(6.9)	20.1	169.7	4.8	17.8
	<u>660.7</u>	<u>(13.6)</u>	<u>82.4</u>	<u>619.7</u>	<u>4.8</u>	<u>70.4</u>

\* Includes Marine and Overseas risks written in the United Kingdom

\*\* Includes Reinsurance and Republic of Ireland

Exchange Rates	1979	1978		1979	1978
Australia	2.01	1.77	Germany	3.83	3.72
Canada	2.59	2.42	U.S.A.	2.22	2.04

The above results were affected by abnormally severe weather in the northern hemisphere, both early and late in the year. The cost in the U.K. was over £4m and in addition a provision was made for a number of potential claims totalling £3.5m in respect of computer leasing.

The Canadian decline in profits exceeded our expectations; in other territories losses over £5m were incurred in France, and hurricane "David" in the West Indies cost £1.5m. Losses were also made in the Republic of Ireland and in Spain. We made good profits in Brazil, Kenya, Malaysia and South Africa.

Investment income and life profits performed fully to our expectations, the reduction in the latter being due to the exceptional profit of £1.3m in 1978 arising out of the vesting of part of the terminal bonus distribution.

The effect of exchange rate fluctuations was to reduce premium income by £33m and investment income by £7m, but the short-term underwriting result was little affected.

## Dividend

The Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend which, with the interim payment made in January 1980, will constitute an increase of 16.4% compared with the dividend paid in respect of the year 1978.

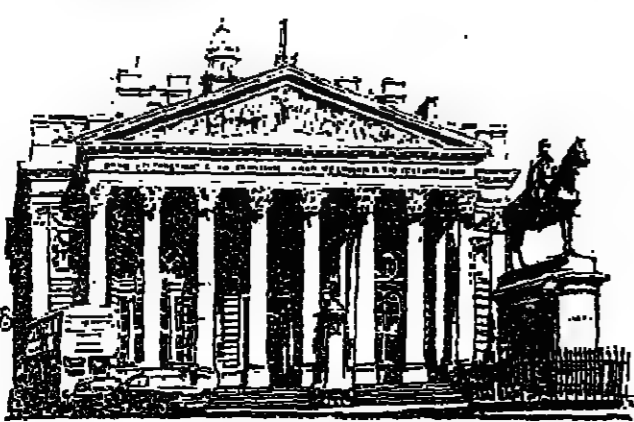
If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 4th June, 1980 a payment at the rate of 8.5p per share (gross equivalent 12.1p) in respect of the final dividend will be made on 5th June to holders of Ordinary shares whose names appear on the register on 2nd May, 1980, making with the interim payment in January last, a total of 13.5p (1978: 11.6p) per share (gross equivalent 19.285p; 1978: 17.3134p).

The Directors intend to reduce the disparity between the interim and final dividends and in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, will declare in September an interim dividend of 6p per share.

The Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 11th May, 1980.

**Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance**

Royal Exchange, London EC3V 4LS



"One of the world's great insurance companies"

## Ash &amp; Lacy up 36 pc to £2.59m

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Ash & Lacy's withdrawal from the low-margin sheet steel stockholding business has swelled the group's cash resources and lifted profit margins.

Pretax profits rose by 36 per cent to £2.59m in 1979 on sales down from £30.2m to £26.7m, reflecting the stockholding closure. The rise in profits was partly due to the absence of pre-interest stockholding losses which totalled £200,000 in 1978 and partly to a turnaround from £178,000 interest payable to £28,000 net interest received.

The stockholding closure and property and stock sales accounted for the bulk of the £482,000 extraordinary profit after tax. These sales, combined with the strong cash flow left Ash & Lacy with year-end net cash and near cash of over £2m.

The final dividend has been raised by over half to leave the year's total up by 54 per cent to 16.4p gross.

Up 6p to 186p on the results, the shares yield 8.5 per cent and the p/e ratio on stated earnings is 4.3.

A final payment of 17.1p gross takes the year's total to 24.2p, against 20.32p previously.

Life-branch surplus rose 24 per cent to £71m and policyholders' bonuses have been raised in total from £50.2m to £63.1m. The life surplus includes a credit for £44m net of tax, against £10.3m in 1978 as part of the unrealised appreciation of investments.

Underwriting losses on general business rose from £2.2m to £3.7m, but investment income from the general branch increased from £4m to £5.2m.

The increase in sales has been distorted by a fire at the company's paper mill. A total of £1.4m insurance compensation has been received.

In construction, profits fell slightly while sales rose by 21 per cent. In plastics, sales and profits rose 10 per cent and 23 per cent respectively. Losses in glass and synthetic dyes have been reduced to £128,000 and profits, from the 50 per cent stake in Norwich Corrugated Board rose from £252,000 to £389,000.

Cash balances rose from £1.3m to £1.6m during the year. The 25 per cent dividend increase to 4.43p gross for the year gives the shares at 54p, up 4p yesterday, a yield of 8.5 per cent.

## Briefly

Sheraton Securities International

Mr C. R. Freemantle and Mr N. N. Tucker, together with others have purchased a 71.4 per cent stake in Sheraton at 0.84p per share for a consideration of £52,048. English Association of America Bond & Shareholders will, on behalf of purchasers, make an unconditional offer of 0.84p cash for rest.

Dreamland Electrical Appliances, manufacturers of electric blankets and fire detection equipment, saw profits and turnover reach record levels in 1979. Profits rose 30 per cent to £14.9m and turnover reached £10.5m, a 27 per cent increase. Dividend total is 3.42p gross compared with 2.18p.

Ferry Pickering Group: Turnover for half year to December 31 £4.07m (£3.32m). Pre-tax profit, £746,000 (£507,000). Gross profit, £724p (7.10p). Interim is 1.43p gross (6.98p). Dividend announced performance anticipated for second half.

S. Jerome & Sons (Holdings): Turnover for 1979, £8.25m (£8.21m). Pre-tax profit, £405,000 (£375,000). Eps 9.2p (9.1p). Dividend, 4.57 (4.56).

F. Copson Co: Turnover for half year to October 31, £2.81m (£2.81m). Pre-tax profit, £108,000 (£75,000). Profit for second half expected to produce results for year "at least as high as those reported for 1978/79".

Peter Stores: Sales for 26 weeks to December 23, £4.5m (£3.55m). Pre-tax profit, £772,000 (£414,000) including surplus on property sales, £555,000 (nil). Eps 15.8p (6.3p). Interim dividend, 2.14p (1.43p) gross. Board forecasts that full-year profit should comfortably exceed last year's.

Startrite Engineering Group: Turnover for half year to December 31, £3.09m (£2.56m). Pre-tax profit, £288,000 (£240,000). Interim 1.26 gross (1.14p). Although first half has been successful problems which face the industry still cause concern.

Burnish Mines: Dividend 0.88 (nil) for 1979. Pre-tax revenue, £122,000 (£65,000). Eps 0.526p. Nav per share 11.9p (11.6p).

James Dickie & Co (Drop Forge): Turnover for half year to October 31, £4m (£3.89m). Profit after all charges including tax, £138,000 (£155,000). Eps 4.3p (4.2p). Dividend, 5.96 (5.72).

Fothergill & Harvey: Turnover for half year to September 29, £17.76m (£14.73m). Pre-tax profit, £2.02m (£1.64m). Eps before tax, 24.65p (24.09p). Dividend 11.07p gross (10.35p).

London & Provincial Poster Group: Turnover for 1979, £17.09m (£14.46m). Pre-tax profit, £4.3m (£3.08m). In addition to its already announced terms, Reed International is offering unsecured loan notes as an alternative to its cash offer of 500p per ordinary share in London & Provincial.

Trust House Forte rose 3p to 304p when its figures were announced.

Burton Group rose 4p to 129p in front of today's announcement, but Aurora Holdings fell 6p to 49p in nervousness before the publication of the figures today.

Trust House Forte rose 3p to

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 0

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979/80	1978/79	Company	Price	Ch's	Gross Div.
99	60	Airsprung Group	60	-3	6.7
99	26	Armstrong & Rhodes	26	-2	3.8
260	385	Bardon Hill	260	+3	13.8
100	80	County Cars Ltd	80	—	15.3
101	63	Deborah Co Ltd	98	+1	9.8
107	88	Frank Horsell	107	—	7.9
129	98	Frederick Parker	98	—	12.8
156	102	George Blair	107	—	16.5
70	45	Jackson Group	69	—	5.2
153	113	James Burroughs	114	—	7.2
300	242	Robert Jenkins	275	+5	31.3
232	175	Torbay Limited	222	+2	14.3
34	114	Twinklark Ord	15	+2	0.8
80	70	Twinklark 12% ULS	80	+1	12.0
56	23	Unilock Holdings	49	—	2.6
49	48	Unilock Holdings Nk	48	—	—
99	42	Walter Alexander	99	—	4.4
190	136	W. S. Yates	186	—	12.1

\* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP1

## Montfo (KNITTING MILLS) LTD

Salient points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. M. J. H. Nightingale, and from the report and accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 1979

- \* Record turnover — Increased by 18.27 £11.9 million.
- \* Record profits — Net profit pre-tax 72%.
- \* Record earnings — Earnings per share 70% on enlarged capital.
- \* Record dividend — Net ordinary dividend by 78%.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable economic situation, the group's current books are not unsatisfactory. Given continued support from our major customers, we believe Montfo can again produce satisfactory results for its shareholders in 1980.

Group Results	1979	1978
Turnover	£11,919,285	£10,000,000
Profit before tax	£909,939	£5
Dividend per share (net)	7.000p	—
Earnings per share	25.988p	11

## ANGLO-AMERICAN SECURITY CORPORATION LIMITED

## Summary of results

Year ended 15th January	Gross Revenue	Ordinary Share Dividend Paid Per Share (net)	Gross Assets (Less Current Liabilities)	Net Asset Value
1975	£2,899,056	2.15p	£47,255,401	63p
1979	£4,283,331	3.30p	£91,503,889	138p
1980	£5,373,835	4.20p	£79,983,459	126p
		0.54p (Special)		

Distribution of Assets U.K. 70.8% North America 18.9% Pacific Basin

The special dividend of 0.54p per share was paid out of non-recurring dividend received from companies during the year on the removal of dividend restraint. The

## Wall Street

## Discount market

The Bank of England bought a small quantity of Treasury bills from banks and houses along with bills direct from the houses, providing, in all, a moderate amount of help to the market yesterday.

In a mood that was becoming increasingly optimistic, the market continued to smooth the market's path through the prolonged tightness of the early months of 1980, houses took over the money at a rate of 17.16 per cent in the area of 17.16 per cent at the outset down to 16 1/2 per cent by lunchtime. At one stage the market was down to 16 per cent, but a slightly firmer tendency developed towards the end of the session when houses were taken in the band 16 per cent to 16 1/2 per cent.

## Foreign exchange report

particularly in the early session, by mounting concern over the Iranian crisis, and also by reports of fresh tension between Iran and Iraq.

Although the dollar closed above the worst, the market remained highly nervous with big losses against major currencies.

The Dmark ended at 1.8945 and the franc at 1.8450. The pound swung between 2.2025 and 2.1650 against the dollar as the Bank of England stayed on the sidelines, and it eventually ended at 2.1780 up 1.28 cents on last night. On a trade-weighted basis, sterling was finally 0.7% down at 72.1.

The yen ended at 233.30 (pre-

## Wall Street

New York, April 9.—Stocks were rising in stepped up trading. Advances led declines five to two and the Dow Jones industrial average closed at 785.92, up 10.93 on yesterday. Advances led declines five to two. Turnover rose slightly to 33 million shares. The first sign of a break in interest rates fuelled a rally in the final minutes of trading and pushed stock prices sharply higher in moderate trading.

A New York affiliate of an Israeli bank cut its prime rate to 19½ per cent from 20 per cent but no major banks followed the move.

Caterpillar Tractor gained 1½ to 48½. It reported higher first quarter profit and raised the dividend. Citicorp added ¼ to 18½ in active trading.

Walt Disney Productions gained 1½ to 44½. Revlon 1½ to 41½. Procter and Gamble 1½ to 69½. Minnesota Mining 1½ to 51½ and Eastman Kodak 4 to 49.

Volume leader Mead Corp. eased  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Its first quarter profit rose slightly. Raytheon lost  $\frac{1}{2}$  despite improved first quarter net. It said last week its profit growth in 1980 would slow from recent levels.

Whirlpool tacked on  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Its first quarter profit declined.

Xerox, which announced plans to open retail stores for its products, lost  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ . F. W. Woolworth raised the dividend and added  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices given in the table relate to Tuesday's close. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

Last changed 15/11/79  
 Clearing Banks Base Rate 17%  
 Discount Mkt Loans 16%  
 Overnight, High 17 Low 16  
 Bank Fixed 17-18%

Treasury Bills (Dis%)			
Buying		Selling	
3 months 16 $\frac{1}{4}$		3 months 16 $\frac{3}{4}$	
3 months 16 $\frac{1}{4}$		3 months 16 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Prime Bank Bills (Dis%)		Trades (Dis%)	
2 months 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$		3 months 18	
3 months 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$		4 months 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	

**Sterling: Other** **Dollar Spot**  
**Rates**

Markets		Stocks	
Luxembourg	5 916.9-0.9218	Ireland	1,872.0-0.9740
Malaysia	0 9936.0-0.9490	Canada	1,179.6-1.9540
Malawi	0.8268/0.8496	Switzerland	2,970.5-0.6250
Maldives	0 0541.5-0.50	Belgium	30.45-0.49
Mexico	11,013.5-11.0635	Denmark	3.66-0.07
Mongolia	N/A available	Finland	2,833.1-1.0600
Norway	0 9399.0-0.9400	France	50.50-0.75
Oman	4.8-4.85-1.8748	Germany	71.63-0.77
Pakistan	0 9060.5-0.50	Greece	87.0-0.90-0.90
Panama	2 986.2-0.1165	Hong Kong	5.06-0.07
Paraguay	7.167-7.17	Italy	4,717.2-1.3715
Peru	4.0002-4.0255	Japan	283.64-0.5640
Philippines	2.955-3.7708	South Korea	11.49-13.52
		Switzerland	1,769.1-1.7600

### EMS European Currency Rate

	1st quar- ter 1971	current quar- ter 1971	% change from current rate	% change adjusted rate	difference between plus minus
Belgium (from Frank's zone)	20 589	49 4256	3.77		5.53
Frank's zone	77 204	793 705	3.82	1.21	2.34
German-Dmark	2 442 99	2 521 18	3.58		1.155
French franc	1 100 000	1 114 000	1.36	0.89	1.202
Dutch guild- er	14 363	24 724	3.33	0.61	1.05
Irish punt	6 682 31	6 676 620	0.99	0.71	1.663
Italian lira	1157.7	2179.33	3.77		4.68

### Gold, silver slip

New York, April 9.—GOLD shipped to-day at 150.00. The following is a summary of the requirements by the Government authorities for the month of March:

Jan.	\$535.00;	Feb.	\$535.00;	Mar.	\$564.00;
June	\$547.00;	Oct.	\$551.00;	Dec.	\$564.00;
Jan.	\$568.00;	Oct.	\$585.00;	Dec.	\$600.00;
Feb.	\$614.00;	April	\$625.00;	June	\$638.00;
May	\$634.00;	Aug.	\$671.20;	Oct.	\$684.00;
Nov.	\$703.60;	Feb.	\$732.00;	Mar.	\$752.00;

CHICAGO, April 9.—GOLD, 150.00. The following is a summary of the requirements for the month of March:

Jan.	\$541.00;	Feb.	\$545.00;	Mar.	\$555.00;
June	\$570.00;	Oct.	\$596.00;	Dec.	\$595.00;
March	\$621.20;	June	\$645.60;	Sept.	\$655.00;

\$671.90; Dec, \$697.  
\$723.50.  
SILVER futures at NY

[illegible]

## Recent Issues

Bio-All Chem 10p Ord (78)	58
Daynes Pub Ord (120)	168
Keep Inv Inc 5p Ord (10)	11
Leach Int 5p Ord (Part)	4 prem
Leach R.M. 10p Ord (90)	52
Leisure Group Ord (70)	250 1/2
Peacemay 140p 1500 (185 1/2)	250 1/2
Pransky 12 1/2% A, 2003-05 (100p)	250 1/2
<b>RIGTS ISSUES</b>	
Teen Mining (1410)	
Teen Mining 10p Ord (40)	2615 prem
10p Ord (40)	15 prem +
10p Disclnt (50)	68 1/2
10p Ord (1100)	15 prem +
<b>Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend.</b>	
Issued by tender, * Nil paid, a \$10 paid, b \$20	
paid, c 25% paid, d 50% paid, e 250 paid.	

## Options

The traded options market recovered from the week's quiet start and the total number of contracts was 790 compared with 275 the previous day. Interest revived as the equity market picked up and Cons sold featured heavily with the

May, 188.00-161.00c: J  
July, 165.50c: Sept, 1  
179.00-181.00c: Jan, 181  
186.10c: May, 191.00c: J

95.50c	Aug.	900.00c	Dec.	207.50c	Jan.
210.00c					
COPPER futures slipped about one cent					
following today's lower					
closing margins at the Comex. April,					
90.50c	May	91.50-92.00c	June		
93.20c	July	93.50-95.00c	Sept.		
96.80c	Dec.	99.00-100.00c	Jan.		
100.00c	March	101.40-103.00c	May		
102.70c	July	104.00c	Sept.	105.00c	
Dec.	107.10c	Jan.	107.70c		
COTTON futures drifted around lower					
midsession but closed mostly					

## Eurosyndicat

European share prices was put provisionally at 127.79 on April against 127.61 a week earlier.

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[illegible]



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